

76 ILLUSTRATED PAGES OF TERROR AND SUSPENSE



EERIE

#47

APRIL 1973

EERIE

A WARREN MAGAZINE NOV. 75¢



DRACULA,
A BEAUTIFUL
YOUNG GIRL,
AND A WITCH
CLASH
WITH
THE
DEAD-THING
Page 6

WARREN PUBLISHING COMPANY
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Dracula

SEE OUR DRACULA AD ON THE INSIDE BACK COVER OF THIS ISSUE



OUR COVER
The dreaded king of all vampires, DRACULA, plus his beautiful vampire aide, once again stalk the night as they encounter "The Dead-Thing!" on page 6.

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EERIE

CONTENTS ISSUE No. 47 MARCH 1973

4 DEAR COUSIN EERIE "Cousin, I don't know why you bothered with issue #45," writes EERIE reader Kathleen LaClaire of Florida. "The only good material was "Dax," and Dominguez's "A Blade For the Teacher!"

6 ENTER THE DEAD-THING! Aboard a clipper ship racing toward European waters, 3 stowaways, DRACULA, a vampiric-witch, and a young woman of the night, meet the ultimate evil as they face a living corpse!

18 LILITH My name is Gabriel, angel of the Lord. I write these words as a warning! I find myself guilty for the tragedy of Lilith! If not for me she would not have been created! She would never have been the first woman!

38 SNAKE MAN Legend has it that a creature with strange ways roams the desert in an endless search. A creature seeking out snakes and desert reptiles with but one purpose in mind...to EAT their scaly corpses raw!

50 MESSAGE IS THE MEDIUM Abe Reich just murdered his wife! Abe's new girlfriend wants him to spend the night with her in a seance parlor where they will bring back...a blood-thirsty ghost. Abe's wife!

66 GEMMA 5 A ray of light flashes from the sky, and a huge metal ship thunders into the peaceful swamplands of old Earth. And Dax, mightiest of all warriors, watches a lone figure emerge... Earth's first visitor from SPACE!

74 EERIE'S DELIGHTS! EERIE writer Steve Skeates reveals the exciting story of his phenomenal rise to boy wonder of the comics' world! Plus, fanzine reviews and a new EERIE news column to kick off a new feature!

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"I once called Cousin Eerie UGLY!"

Issue #45 was below average. The cover, "Monster Gallery," "Fanfare," and "Dax" were the only good parts of the magazine. I especially disliked "R1, Master of Men," and I thought "Ecology of Death" was plain dumb. Science fiction makes me sick, especially in a horror (?) mag.

PATRICK WALSH
New Palestine, Indiana

I was tormented with shock to find out that there failed to be an "Inside Department" in EERIE #45. Even so, this issue was probably one of the best to come along in a long time. What seemed to make this issue take off was the selection of tempting terror tidbits scattered throughout the magazine—a variety of stories in the fields of science fiction, sword & sorcery, and horror. Other readers write in to say that EERIE is a magazine for vampires and werewolves, but I think it should have a diversity. Let Creepy have only horror in his magazine—even though the subject gets wrinkles after a while.

ALICE FIELDER
(no address given)

I have just finished issue #45 of your magazine, and as usual, I am disappointed. A few years ago, when I saw the new issue of EERIE, I would leap in the air cheering. "It's here!" Knowing it would be a good mag, I'd buy it immediately. Now, when I see the new EERIE, I say to myself, "Should I gamble 75¢ and get it?"

What your magazine used to have was the "shock" ending. I would find out on which page the story ended, and then when I came to it, I would cover up the last panels just so as not to see the ending. NOW when I come to the end of a story, I don't even bother to cover it up because I know it will be one of the following: stupid, boring, or entirely predictable. In bygone days, when I bought an EERIE or a CREEPY, I would sit in a room alone and read every sentence thoroughly. NOW, when I get an EERIE or a CREEPY, I skim through it just to get an idea of the story. I still buy the mag, however, because I know you can do better. In short, EERIE isn't half the mag it used to be so shape up! Congrats to the fans—all the fan art and stories were great.

LARRY KASPAR
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania

Not only has EERIE undoubtedly changed in the last few years, Larry, but so have you. As a steady and faithful reader, you've probably become hip and aware of the techniques of "shock" endings. And as a much more sophisticated reader, it takes much more to astound and surprise you than it did when you were just cutting your horror "eye teeth" on the mags.

This is the first time I've ever written to you, but I feel as though I must give you my reactions to EERIE #45. Lately, it seems readers are praising Dominguez's covers. I think they stink. You had a real gold mine when you had Sanjulian doing them. And what I mean to say is that Dominguez is great for your interiors, but not for your covers.

This letter, however, is mainly in reply to Mike Mulford's writings. I'll bet you Mike doesn't even know what "anti-establishment, sadistic capitalist exploitation" is. It takes trash to know trash. And besides, the whole letter sounds like something Uncle Creepy would send to his friends!

JAMES ARENA
Smithtown, New York

You stated in EERIE #44 that you wanted comments or complaints on Randy Palmer's letter. Well, folks, here's a comment. I agree that the 50th Anniversary Issue should—and better—be good. To that end, I suggest you reprint either the best story in EERIE or the first story ever to appear in EERIE. Also, the magazine should have either a Fra-zetta cover or a story illustrated by him.

I'd like to see you keep up the writer and artist profiles, as well as keeping and illustrating each EERIE "Short, Short Shocker." And last but not least, how about printing the cover of the next issue and revealing the name of the artist? That's all for now—see you next issue.

JEFF KILIAN
Wichita, Kansas

Rest assured, a 50th issue is a monumental occasion in the life of any magazine, and I'm going to see that it's the best golden anniversary ever seen by mortal (or otherwise) eyes. Can't give you much more info right now—even the walls have long, hairy ears!

I am a very new reader of your great magazine, and I just want to tell you what I thought of EERIE #44. The top stories were "Everlasting Destiny," "Lake of Gold," and "The Parade." "Crazy Mazie" and "Tiller of the Soul," though, weren't to my liking.

I must admit that I read Wormy's mag before yours, but I'm in your camp now! Vampi—who??? As for Kreepee, I sentence him to be the next guest at the Parade—if the citizens of Sleepy Grove could stomach it, that is.

So, until Creepy reads EERIE and vice-versa, EERIE 4-Ever!

RICK WORLAND
Montgomery City, Missouri

"Crazy Mazie" in EERIE #44 was super. The duo of Cochran and Sutton excelled even their work of the "Disenfranchised" in EERIE #39. With the exception of "Tiller of the Soil," however, the rest of the stories, bad. I didn't particularly think much of "Everlasting Mortality."

Since sword & sorcery fans have their own series, why not produce a series for science fiction fans? I can see it now. There's a huge spaceship soaring through the galaxy, and one of the crew members has pointed ears...

RICHARD EYBERGER
Mingo Junction, Ohio

Please forgive me. For about two years I read CREEPY, for about one year I read VAMPIRELLA, but I never read your magazine. I once even called you ugly! But all that changed when I recently bought EERIE #44. I found that all the mags have good and bad (but mostly good) stories. So, please forgive me, Cuz, because now I think that EERIE, CREEPY, and VAMPI are all great horror magazines. I find Dax the Warrior to be really fine!

Keep up the ghoulish work, Cuz!

ROBERT E. SOMMERKAMP II
St. Petersburg, Florida

To tell you the truth, Bob, "ugly" is not the worst thing of Cuz has ever been called. As a matter of fact, when readers are just content to leave it go at that, I breathe a sigh of relief!



Seductive Gremilda, the witch from "Dax the Warrior," has convinced David Brady to become a regular reader.

"EERIE no longer shocks!"

Mike Mulford's complaints in issue #45 had to be the most unique, even if not the clearest, criticism ever printed.

"Anti-establishment nature" in your mags. Aww, come on, Mike. The story was using pollution as a story vehicle, not as an editorial against capitalism. Remember, these stories are fiction. "The Safest Way" wasn't fact, just a fictional look into the future. (But let's face it, a military mistake isn't beyond the realm of possibility.) EERIE has never pretended to be anything but a horror magazine. Any anti-establishment nature, if it indeed exists, can only reflect the opinion of the story writer—and is an opinion really "nauseating?"

Mike ran out of complaints somewhere through the letter, so he settled for labeling EERIE a "piece of trash." This is probably the sort of constructive criticism that's very useful to you. By the way, Mike, if you don't like the magazine the way it is, write in and suggest alternatives instead of just junking the mag.



DAVE VIRRILL
Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y.

Just as we printed Mike's letter straight in issue #45, we are now extending the same courtesy to those readers who chose to answer him. The defense rests.

Cousin, I don't know why you bothered with issue #45. The only good material was the "Dax" story and "Blade for the Teacher," drawn by Luis Dominguez.

But seriously, for years we readers have been subjected to many terrors, and I don't—repeat—don't mean the contents. But this is going too far. The names of EERIE and CREEPY are practically synonymous with horror, so why the torrent of science-fiction? Look, I understand that some people like science fiction, but EERIE and CREEPY are "horrorful" names which the stories must live up to. So why doesn't Warren Publishing make a new magazine, devoted entirely to science-fiction?

If you're going to change EERIE and CREEPY into fairy tales, please change your masthead, as it just doesn't cut it.



KATHLEEN LaCLAIRE
Miami, Florida

EERIE and CREEPY fairy tales?! Just let Prince Charming try to kiss a "Sleeping Creepy!" Is that enough horror for you?

My friend Jack and I made a "monster room" we call the "Vault of Horror," decorated with lots of EERIES, CREEPIES, VAMPIRELLAS, and FAMOUS MONSTERS. We enjoy reading and sending away for these mags, but we really wish you could send some of those terrifying tabloids over to the stores here in Alexandria. Thank you.

BYRON O'DRISCOLL
Alexandria, Virginia

Eerie, may I say you have to sink pretty low to print such garbage as was in issue #44. The only good thing about the entire book was "Tiller of the Soul." Even Dax was under grade. I'll check out issues #45 and #46, but if they're the same, I'll quit reading. I hate to see you die, but you're on the downfall.

WAYNE BLEDSOE
Knoxville, Tennessee

I was planning to write for a long time to tell you how Dax the Warrior is so much worse than the rest of your stories, but alas, that is no longer true. All of your stories have dropped to the level of Dax. And that level is low! To start off with, your writers haven't come up with one new idea throughout the whole magazine. The stories have plots that were written to scare a dumb two-year-old! I've been reading EERIE ever since its creation (and before that, too!) and I've seen you come up with some real literary masterpieces. Why don't you fire all your writers and hire a new bunch of scribblers? But even an old complainer like me must admit you've got some really good artists. Steve Ditko used to raise the quality of art of EERIE and CREEPY to unparalleled heights! If it's at all possible, please bring back my hero.

DAVID EPSTEIN
Monticello, New York

I was beginning to wonder if this was a horror type magazine until I saw "The Witch" with Dax the Warrior. This feature story had incredible art and a good script. I really dug the witch (WOW—heh, heh) and I think I just might end up buying your mag every month! "Thrill of the Hunt" wasn't much of a thrill.

DAVID E. BRADY
Manheim, Pennsylvania

What do you think I'm running here, David, a magazine or a rabbit hutch? Maybe I should run a "Slaymate of the Month!"



Mervin Sniddle had a thing going with his alarm clock! Greg Potter wrote the story, and Luis Dominguez did the artwork!

MERVIN'S DEAD RINGER

Greg Potter explains the events which led to his becoming a comic book writer, and which eventually led to his writing "Mervin's Dead Ringer," in EERIE #44.

I don't remember her name. She was some local actress from a local troupe making the rounds in various elementary schools in order to spark theatrical interest into young people. She was successful in my case. She put on a one-woman scene from the *Diary of Anne Frank* and it was all over for me. I'd been hooked—but in the wrong way. In my mind, it wasn't enough just to go and see plays. I had to get fully involved. I had to write plays, too.

Comic book scripts are in many ways similar to plays, the only differences being (1) our "stage" is a blank piece of paper; (2) our producer is a printing press; (3) our "acting" goes on in the minds of our readers.

To pull off a one-man play upon the stage takes a superlatively gifted actor. To pull off a one-man "play" in a comic book, it takes a superlatively sensitive character with whom the reader can easily identify. We all have a little Mervin Sniddle in us. We're all bullied, bothered and belittled at one time or another in our lives. I doubt that there's a single reader out there who cannot easily slip into Mervin's shoes. Further, there's not a single one of you who doesn't rely upon some "friend"—some kind of Alan the Alarm Clock—that helps you through life's rough areas. Isn't that why you're reading this comic magazine right now?

—GREG POTTER

"COUSIN EERIE WANTS YOU!"

To write him, that is, with your paeans or pans, plaudits or pundits to:

DEAR COUSIN EERIE
c/o Warren Publishing
Company
145 East 32nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10016



THE EARTH SHAKES AND BUILDINGS DANCE TO A MAD, CHAOTIC BALLET! THIS IS **SAN FRANCISCO!** THE TIME IS **1906!** AND THE GREATEST **EARTH-QUAKE** TO EVER HIT AN AMERICAN CITY TEARS ITS WAY THROUGH THE BARBARY COAST, THE SCREAMS OF THE DEAD AND THE DYING ARE DROWNED OUT BY THE DEAFENING ROAR OF BUILDINGS CRUMBLING, AND A RAGING INFERNO BURNING THROUGH THE RUBBLE OF WHAT WAS ONLY HOURS BEFORE, CALIFORNIA'S GREATEST CITY!

AND JUST AHEAD OF THE FLAMES RACES A LONE FIGURE CARRYING THE STILLED FORMS OF TWO WOMEN...THE POWERFUL YET MAJESTIC FIGURE OF THE LEGENDARY...

DRACULA

I MUST REACH THE DOCK AREAS ...ESCAPE THIS DEVASTATION!

IF IT HAS NOT MET WITH DESTRUCTION, MY VESSEL WAITS TO SAIL TO MY HOMELAND!

AND AS FLAMES CONSUME THAT WHICH THE EARTH-QUAKE HAS NOT ALREADY CLAIMED, A SAILING VESSEL RACES TOWARD THE SAFETY OF THE OPEN SEA...

...TO TRANSYLVANIA!



...WITH DRACULA NOBLE KING OF VAMPIRES SAFELY HIDDEN BELOW ITS ROTTED DECKS!

AND WHAT OF HIS TWO CAPTIVES, A BLIND WITCH WOMAN WHO FEARS DEATH, AND A YOUNG BUT BEAUTIFUL WOMAN OF THE NIGHT?



...MIZ' ELIZABETH? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HER?

SHE WILL HAVE NO NEED TO EVER FEAR DEATH AGAIN, GIRL!

AND YOU, GIRL! YOU WHO FEAR THE DARKNESS MORE THAN ALL ELSE, SHALL SPEND THE REST OF YOUR UNNATURAL LIFE IN THE WORLD OF DARKNESS...

...THE WORLD OF THE VAMPIRE!

NO!! NOOOOO!!

SEE LAST ISSUE!

Tom Sutton '72

IT TAKES MONTHS FOR A VESSEL TO CROSS AN OCEAN SUCH AS THE PACIFIC, EVEN WHEN WINDS ARE STRONG AND THE SAILING SMOOTH! A SHIP'S CREW CAN GROW RESTLESS IN THOSE MONTHS...

...BUT THEN, THE PANGS OF HUNGER WITHIN A NEW VAMPIRE CAN ALSO BRING OUT A RESTLESSNESS! WITH EACH NIGHT, TWO STEALTHY FIGURES CREEP FROM THEIR STOW-AWAY HIDEOUTS, TO QUENCH THEIR RESTLESSNESS AND FEED!



...FOR EACH NIGHT OF THIS VOYAGE, THE SAME TWO SAILORS WHO HAVE KEPT WATCH SINCE THE VOYAGE BEGAN, MAKE THEIR NIGHTLY ROUNDS...

THOSE WHO ARE CAREFUL TO TAKE JUST ENOUGH OF THE LIFE-GIVING SUBSTANCE...

...BY THOSE WHO MUST HAVE BLOOD TO SURVIVE...

AND ARE STALKED...



...SO THEIR DAZED AND UNAWARE VICTIMS CAN REPLENISH THEM WHEN THE PANGS OF HUNGER AGAIN PRESENT THEMSELVES.

IN THIS WAY, TWO VAMPIRESS STOWAWAYS HAVE REMAINED UNDETECTED DURING A LENGTHY JOURNEY!

THEIR LIFE FORCES ARE VERY WEAK, JOSEPHINE!

AYE, MIZ' ELIZABETH! MY THIRST HAS NOT BEEN FULLY SATISFIED THIS NIGHT!

I COULD WELL USE ANOTHER VICTIM!

AND THE TASTE OF BLOOD, NOT ANEMIC FROM THE UNDEAD'S TOUCH!

PERHAPS WE MAY FIND NEW VICTIMS IF WE SPLIT UP. THERE IS LESS CHANCE WE WILL BE DISCOVERED!

THE YOUNG VAMPIRESS STUMBLES THROUGH THE DARKNESS OF THE SHIP'S INTERIOR... WORRYING OVER THE DARKNESS ABOUT HER...

EVEN THOUGH I NOW BE ONE OF THE UNDEAD, THE DARKNESS STILL FILLS ME WITH A DREAD!

I HOPE THAT I MAY FIND A VICTIM SOON SO THAT I MAY GET OUT OF THIS DARK... AND REST EASY THIS NIGHT!



SHE IS CAUGHT UNAWARES WHEN SHE STUMBLES ONTO A GROUP OF SEASONED TARS... HARD-PRESSED FOR A LITTLE ENJOYMENT!



I MUST BE DREAMIN' MATES! I BELIEVE I'M SEEIN' A REAL LIVE WOMAN!



I'LL BE DAMNED! THIS IS NO DREAM!

THIS IS THE REAL THING! SHE'S A BLOOMIN' STOWAWAY!

HELLO THERE, YOU SEXY THING! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL MY LIFE?

WHO CARES WHERE SHE'S BEEN ALL YOUR LIFE, TWERPY JOE...!

WHERE THE HELL'S SHE BEEN DURIN' THIS ENTIRE VOYAGE?

COULDA' USED ME A WOMAN ALLA THEM NIGHTS I WAS SLEEPIN' WITH NOTHIN' TO WARM ME BUT A BELLYFUL O' ALE!



I HAVE A DISTINCT FEELIN' YOU WON'T BE SLEEPIN' ALONE TONIGHT, BAD BOB!

AT A WAY, BIG DICK! GIVE IT TO HER GOOD NOW!



LINE UP AND TAKE YOUR TURNS, MATEYS! WE GOT US A NIGHT O' FUN AND GAMES AHEAD O' US! AIN'T WE ME PRETTY?

AND AS THE VOYAGE-WEARY TARS GATHER AROUND THE ONLY WOMAN THEY HAVE SEEN IN MONTHS, THE COMMOTION ATTRACTS YET ANOTHER TO THE SCENE...



WHAT IN HELL'S NAME IS ALL THE RUCKUS DOWN HERE?

GEE-SUHS!

IN ALL MY DAYS OF CAPTAIN'ING, I NEVER IN MY LIFE SEEN A MORE WELCOMED STOWAWAY!

AYE, CAPTAIN! WE WUS' GONNA BRING THIS FRISKY WENCH UP TO YA!



WELL I'M GLAD I SAVED YOU THE TROUBLE, BAD BOB!

I'LL TAKE THIS GIRL TO MY CABIN MYSELF...

AND THERE, WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN'T WORK OUT SOME 'ARRANGEMENT' FOR YOU TO PAY YOUR PASSAGE! HEH! HEH!



AND IN THE MUSTY SMELLING PASSAGES OF THE HOLD, ELSEWHERE ON THE SHIP, A BLIND VAMPIRESS GROPE HER WAY THROUGH THE DARK, UNAWARE THAT JOSEPHINE HAS BEEN SEIZED BY A RUTHLESS CAPTAIN!

THOUGH MY EYES CAN'T SEE, MY SENSES TELL ME THERE IS LIFE AT THE END OF THIS PASSAGE!



WITH A BIT O' LUCK, MAYHAPS I CAN DRAIN A BIT OF THAT LIFE AND FILL THIS STILL HUNGRY FRAME.

CROPING HER WAY THROUGH A LIGHTLESS PASSAGE MADE DARKER BY **SIGHTLESS EYES**, THE WITCH WOMAN HALTS, HER KEEN VAMPIRIC SENSES AWARE OF THE PRESENCE OF **LIFE** AHEAD OF HER!



RATS!

RATS!
FIGHTING
OVER A SCRAP
OF GARBAGE!

IS THIS THE
LIFE MY SENSES
TOLD ME LIED
BACK THERE?



NO!
THERE IS
SOMETHING
MORE!

I DETECT OTHER
LIFE JUST BEYOND
THESE BARRELS!

...**HUMAN LIFE...**
AND **LIFE GIVING**
BLOOD!



EH? THIS IS A **COFFIN!**
THERE CAN BE NOTHING **LIVING**
HERE! WHAT ARE THESE
TRICKS MY MIND PLAY?

AS THE VAMPIRIC WITCH LIFTS THE
COFFIN LID, THE NAUSEATING
STENCH OF **DEATH** ENGULFS HER...



...**DEATH** MINGLED WITH THE
MOVEMENT OF **LIFE!** AND
FOR JUST A BRIEF MOMENT,
THE WITCH WOMAN REMEM-
BERS HER WHOLLY CONSUMING
FEAR OF **DEATH...**



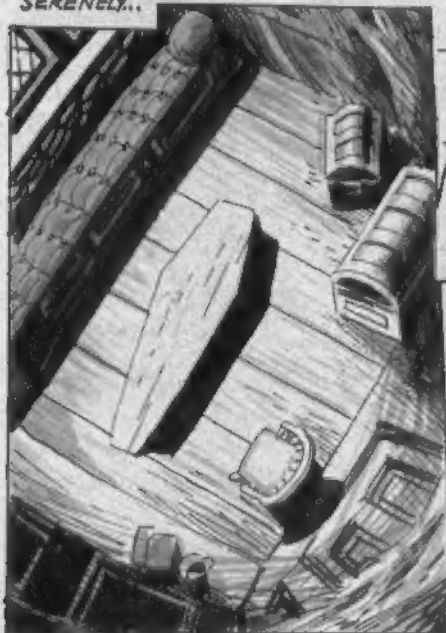
SHE DROPS THE COFFIN
LID, SWAYS SLIGHTLY...

THEN CRUMBLES TO THE FLOOR **UNCONSCIOUS!**
WHILE **INSIDE** THE COFFIN, A **HIDEOUSLY** ROTTING **CORPSE**
BLINKS IT'S EYES, TO AGAIN **LOOK** AT THE WORLD IN WHICH
IT ONCE WALKED... AND IT SLOWLY BEGINS TO **RISE**
FROM IT'S COFFIN!



ENTER THE DEAD-THING!

IN AN ALL BUT FORGOTTEN STATEROOM ABOARD THE SHIP, YET **ANOTHER** COFFIN SITS SERENELY...



...A COFFIN BROUGHT ABOARD THE SHIP BY TWO MINDLESS LACKEYS, TARS UNDER THE HYPNOTIC INFLUENCE...



...OF **DRACULA**, KING OF ALL VAMPIRES!



TOO LONG HAVE I BEEN CRAMPED IN THIS WOODEN PRISON!



IT IS EVENING, AND I **THIRST!**

THE FOOLISH WOMEN MUST HAVE VENTURED FROM THEIR HIDING PLACES AND BEEN CAPTURED!



THE MOON IS BRIGHT THIS NIGHT! AND BY THE POSITION OF THE STARS, I CAN TELL THAT OUR JOURNEY IS NEARING ITS END!

BY THE MORROW, WE SHOULD REACH EUROPEAN SHORES!

AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER, I WILL RETURN TO **CASTLE DRACULA!**

BUT WHAT OF THE TWO **WOMEN** WHO BEGAN THIS VOYAGE WITH ME?

WHERE ARE **THEY** THIS NIGHT?

THOUGH WE STARTED THIS JOURNEY AS ENEMIES THEY ARE NOW AMONG MY LEGIONS OF THE **UNDEAD...**

...AND I AM THEIR **MASTER!**

WHAT'S THIS? MY SENSES TELL ME SOMETHING IS TERRIBLY **WRONG!**



I SENSE THEY ARE BOTH IN **DANGER...**

...BUT THE GREATER OF THE TWO **DANGERS** LIES JUST BEYOND THESE BARRELS!



AND WHILE TENSIONS BUILD WITHIN DRACULA, AS HE PREPARES TO FACE THE UNKNOWN... THE INNER CONFLICTS BREWING ON THE SHIP DO NOT MANIFEST THEMSELVES ON ITS EXTERIOR! FOR THIS SUMMER NIGHT, THE WATERS ARE PEACEFUL, THE MOON IS FULL, AND THE WINDS ARE FAVORABLE!

IT IS THE KIND OF NIGHT THAT SETS A SAILORS LEISURELY THOUGHTS ON MORE RESTFUL SUBJECTS THAN SAILING AND THE SEA!

BIG JOHN... DIDJA' HEAR WHAT I HEARD FROM BAD BOB, BIG DICK AND THE OTHERS...?

THERE'S A STOW-AWAY ABOARD SHIP...

AND IT'S A WOMAN!!

AYE! I HEARD, WEASEL!

AN' I SEEN THE CAPTAIN TAKE HER INTO HIS CABIN, TOO!

NEARLY THREE MONTHS WE BEEN AT SEA!

THREE MONTHS THAT I AIN'T HAD ME A WOMAN!

IT JUST AIN'T FAIR THAT THE CAPTAIN SHOULD HOS THAT GIRL ALL TO HIS SELF!

DON'T LOOK NOW, BIG JOHN! BUT I THINK THE CAP'N JUST SENT US A PRESENT!

HOLY SH...

...IT'S THE WOMAN!

HELLO THERE, ME PRETTY! YOU'D JUST BE COMIN' FROM A ROMP IN THE CAPTAIN'S CABIN, I SEE...

DOES OUR CAPTAIN KNOW YOU'VE LEFT HIM, OR COULD IT BE THAT YOU'VE SLIPPED AWAY WHILE HE SLEEPS...?

IN EITHER CASE, IT MATTERS NOT, ME PRETTY!

FOR NOW YOU'RE WITH BIG JOHN!

AND WE'LL BE HAVING A PLEASUREFUL NIGHT!

SAVE A LITTLE FOR ME BIG JOHN...

...I HAVE A FEELIN' THAT THE GREAT GODS OF THE SEA ARE GOING TO BE GOOD TO US TONIGHT!

AND AS THE GODS INDEED 'REWARD' THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES, THE VESSEL DRAWS NEARER TO THE EUROPEAN COASTLINE...AND DRACULA'S HOMELAND!

LENGTHY MINUTES PASS,
AND AN OLD SAILOR GROWS
WEARY WAITING FOR HIS
SHIP MATE TO EMERGE WITH
THEIR FEMININE CAPTIVE!

COME ON
OUT OF
THERE,
BIG JOHN!

WE'LL BE HITTING COASTAL
WATERS BEFORE I GET A
CHANCE TO SET EYES
ON THAT GIRL AGAIN...!

DAMN SELFISH MAN
THAT BIG JOHN!

I COULD DIE
O' OLD AGE BY THE
TIME HE FINISHES
HIS LOVE MAKING!

OH NO! NOT
ANOTHER ONE
O' ME MATEYS
WAITIN' IN LINE
TO TAKE HIS
TURN!?

WHADDYA THINK
THIS IS... A BLOOMIN'
ASSEMBLY LINE...?
GO FIND YER OWN...

...WOMAN!

W...WHO...
WHAT ARE...

...YOU?

A SICKENING STENCH
FILLS THE AIR...THE STENCH
OF ROTTING DEATH!

SET IS A STENCH THAT
THE OLD SAILOR
SMELLS ONLY
MOMENTARILY...

...IN THAT
BRIEF
SECOND
BEFORE HIS
HEAD IS
CRUSHED
TO A
BLOODY
PULP BY A
WALKING
CORPSE!

GAAAAA!

UNAWARE OF THE STALKING HORROR ON THE FARSIDE OF THE SHIP WALKING THE SAME DECK AS HE, THE FIRST MATE TRIES IN VAIN TO RAISE HIS CAPTAIN...

LORD!
THIS CABIN'S
A MESS!

LOOKS LIKE
SOMEBODY
HAD A GOOD
TIME!

CAP'N! WAKE
UP, SIR! WE'RE
APPROACHING
LAND!

SOME-
THINGS
WRONG!

MAYBE THAT
STOWAWAY
GIRL PLUMB
TIRED
HIM OUT!

GASP! I... IT'S THE
CAPTAIN!

HIS THROAT'S
BEEN TORN OPEN!

YOU THINK IT
WAS THE GIRL?

NO GIRL
COULDA DONE
THIS!

THERE'S SOMETHING
HORRIBLE ABOARD
THIS VESSEL...

A CALL
GOES OUT
FOR ALL
HANDS TO
SEEK OUT
THE DEADLY
THING THAT
DESTROYED
THEIR
CAPTAIN...

...AND A RIOTIOUS AND EQUALLY
DEADLY CREW, CARRYING TORCHES
AND ARMS, SCOURS THE VESSEL...

KEEP A SHARP EYE,
MATEYS! DON'T BE
CAUGHT UNAWARES!

KILL THE
DAMNED THING
THAT STRUCK
DOWN OUR
CAP'N!

SEARCHING FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT...

IN THE BOWELS OF THE SHIP, DRACULA IS UNAWARE OF THE HORROR WALKING THE DECKS ABOVE HIS HEAD! HE DOES NOT KNOW OF THE YOUNG VAMPIRESS JOSEPHINE'S FLIGHT AS A CAPTIVE OF RUTHLESS SAILORS... AND OF THE DEAD-THINGS NEARNESS TO THE YOUNG VAMPIRESS... NOR OF THE RAMPAGING CREW. DRACULA'S THOUGHTS ARE WHOLLY OCCUPIED BY THE SCENE BEFORE HIM...

THE CRUMPLED FIGURE OF A SIGHTLESS VAMPIRESS, AWAKENING FROM THE WORLD OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS...

WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE, WITCH WOMAN?

DRACULA... IS THAT YOU?

T... THE CORPSE! HAVE YOU SEEN THE LIVING CORPSE?

OF WHAT DO YOU SPEAK, WOMAN!

WITCH WOMAN!!

THERE'S A LIVING CORPSE IN THIS COFFIN, DRACULA!

I OPENED THE CASKET'S LID, AND ALTHOUGH I COULDN'T SEE IT, I SENSED THAT IT WAS THERE...

THEN YOUR SENSES MUST TELL YOU THERE IS **NO** CORPSE THERE NOW, WOMAN! **LIVING** OR OTHERWISE!

BUT MY SENSES TELL ME THAT YOU SPEAK THE **TRUTH!**

THERE **IS** A **DEAD** **THING** ABOARD THIS VESSEL...

I AM **NEEDED** ELSEWHERE!

I MUST GO, WITCH WOMAN!

AND ITS PRESENCE SPELLS **DANGER!**

THE VAMPIRE KING HAS BUT WILL IT, AND HIS BODY **MELTS**, MOLDING ITSELF INTO THE LIGHTER AND SWIFTER FORM OF THE **VAMPIRE BAT!**

SOMEWHERE ABOARD THIS VESSEL, JOSEPHINE IS IN **DANGER!**

DRACULA! WAIT FOR ME!

JUST ACROSS THE SHIP,
A WALKING CORPSE
HOLDS THE LIMP FORM
OF WEASEL...

A MAN WHO
SOUGHT NOTHING
MORE THAN A
BIT OF PLEASURE!

A SCURRYING
MOVEMENT
BEHIND HIM
DRAWS THE
DEAD THINGS
ATTENTION...

TO A YOUNG GIRL
WITH BLOOD-STAINED
MOUTH AND FANGS!

A VAMPIRESS WHO HAS
FOUGHT HER WAY AWAY
FROM ONE MORE LONESOME
SAILOR... BY DRINKING HIS
VERY BLOOD!

...GIRL...

ANOTHER ONE? IS THERE
NO END TO THE LUSTS
WHICH SAIL WITH
THIS SHIP?

No!

YOU WILL
NOT TOUCH
ME TOO
LOATHSOME
CREATURE!

G... GIRL?...

TONIGHT I
HAVE FELT THE
BREATH OF
TOO MANY
MEN!

AND AS VAMPIRESS AND CORPSE
CONFRONT ONE ANOTHER, THEY
ARE SPOTTED BY
OTHER EYES...

LOOK! IT'S
THE GIRL!
AND THAT
THING'S ABOUT
TO ATTACK
HER!

JUST AS IT
MUST HAVE
ATTACKED
THE CAP'N!

A TORCH-BEARING AND ANGRY MOB RACES
TO THE GIRL'S AID... NOT KNOWING THAT IT
WAS SHE WHO HAS KILLED THEIR CAPTAIN...

UNAWARE THAT SHE IS AS DEAD AS THE
BEING WHICH NOW CONFRONTS HER... NOT
REALIZING THAT SHE IS A VAMPIRESS...

AND JUST
ABOVE THE
DECK, FOUR
MORE EYES
WITNESS
THE MACABRE
CONFRONTATION!

FROM OUT OF THE SKY DRACULA SWOOPS LIKE AN AVENGING ANGEL... AN ANGEL HELL BENT ON VENGEANCE!

WHATEVER YOU ARE CREATURE... YOU'LL NOT HARM ONE OF THE UNDEAD WITHOUT ANSWERING TO DRACULA!

A RAGING FURY BURNS WITHIN THE CHEST OF THE VAMPIRE KING! A SINGLE BLOW CAUSES THE DEAD THING TO STAGGER AND

WOK!!

REEL... BUT THE REVERBERATIONS OF THAT BLOW CAUSE A CARELESS TORCH-BEARER TO SET FIRE TO THE UNFURLED SAILS...

LIKE A TINDERBOX, THE VESSEL BLAZES! WARM WINDS FAN THE FLAMES... AND THE FIRE LEAPS AND CRACKLES, SENDING MEN SCURRYING OVER THE SIDE TO THE SAFETY OF THE OPEN SEA!

DRACULA'S FURY BLINDS HIM TO THE INFERNO WHICH HAS SO QUICKLY SPRUNG UP ABOUT HIM...

BUT HIS VAMPIRESS AIDES QUICKLY CHANGE FORM...

...AND TWO BATS SCURRY TO THE SAFETY OF THE NIGHT AIR...

A THIRD BAT LEAPS FROM THE CHAR-RED WRECKAGE OF A SHIP THAT ONLY MOMENTS BEFORE WAS PEACEFULLY AT SAIL IN CALM WATERS...

...AS THEY WATCH A PROUD VESSEL SUCCUMB TO FIRE AND WATER!

FROM THEIR VANTAGE POINT IN THE SKY, LEATHERY-WINGED VAMPIRES WATCH DEATH CLAIM ITS VICTIMS...

AND FOR THE SECOND TIME... THE THING THAT WAS ONCE A MAN... DIES!

A DAY OF REST... PLUS A NIGHT OF TRAVELING BRINGS THREE WEARY TRAVELERS TO THEIR DESTINATION, DEEP WITHIN THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT!

AND TO ONE WHO HAS TRAVELED FARTHER THAN THE OTHERS MIGHT DREAM, THE SIGHT OF MUSTY ROCK TOWERS AND WALLS IS LIKE THE RE-UNITING OF AN OLD FRIEND!

A BRIEF CLIMB UP TIME-WORN STAIRS, AND THE FINAL LEG OF A LONG JOURNEY IS COMPLETE!

COME, MY FRIENDS!

ENTER THE PEACEFUL HOME OF COUNT DRACULA!

IT IS GOOD TO BE BACK TO CASTLE DRACULA!

IT IS GOOD TO BE HOME!

A BLAST RIPPING THROUGH, SHREDDING THE BODY OF THE VAMPIRE KING, SENDS HIM REELING BACK... OVER THE NARROW PRECIPICE DIVIDING THE GATES OF CASTLE DRACULA, AND DOOM...

...AND WITHIN THE CASTLE'S DOORWAY, AN OLD MAN WITH A SMOKING SHOTGUN SITS, CONTENTEDLY ROCKING IN COMFORTABLE TRIUMPH!

I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS!

BUT AT LONG LAST...

THE ACCURSED DRACULA IS NO MORE!

NEXT: THE SON OF DRACULA!

PROLOGUE

ENGLAND DURING
THE MID-1800s...

THAT WA'
A REAL
CORKER
EH,
JEREMY?

AYE, 'WI'
YA LOOK
AT *THIS!*
IT'S A
CAVE,
'ARRY, PROBL'Y
JUST A SMALL
ONE, LESSEE.

IT'S A
TOMB! I DON'T
LIKE THIS, 'ARRY. ITS
BEEN 'ERE A LONG,
LONG TIME AND
'IDDEN, LIKE NO
ONE IS SUPPOSED
TA FIND IT.

LILITH, JUS'
LILITH. NO
FAMILY NAME.
NO DATES.

OW! I STUBBED
ME FOOT ON
SOMETHIN! THERE'S
A BOX 'ERE
BY THE
COFFIN.

WHAT'S
IT SAY?

IT'S WRITTEN
IN BLEEDIN' LATIN.
I CAN'T READ
BLEEDIN'
LATIN.

WHA' 'BOUT
'AT PROFESSOR....
UH, REFICULI. 'E
READS BLEEDIN'
LATIN.

WANT TA
TAKE A
PEEK AT
'ER?

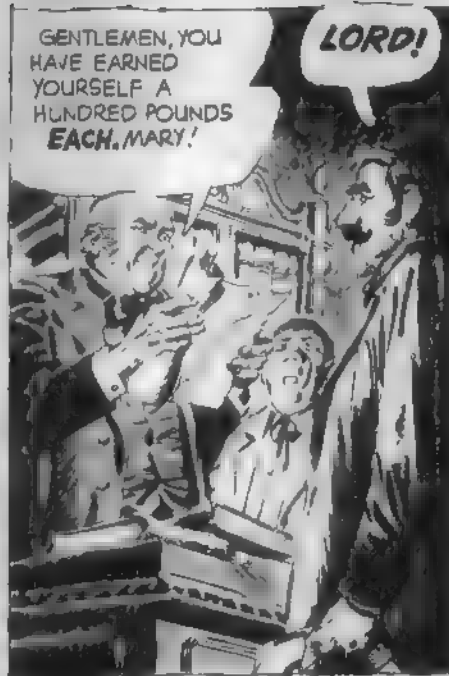
NAW! SHE
CAN'T BE NO
SLEEPING
BEAUTY IF
SHE'S BEEN
COLD 'AT
LONG.

HARRY AND JEREMY WAITED ONLY A FEW MINUTES BEFORE BEING INVITED INTO PROFESSOR REFULI'S STUDY. GRATEFULLY, THEY FOUND THAT THE OLD MAN WAS MORE PLEASANT THAN THE MACABRE ARTIFACTS WHICH SURROUNDED THEM.



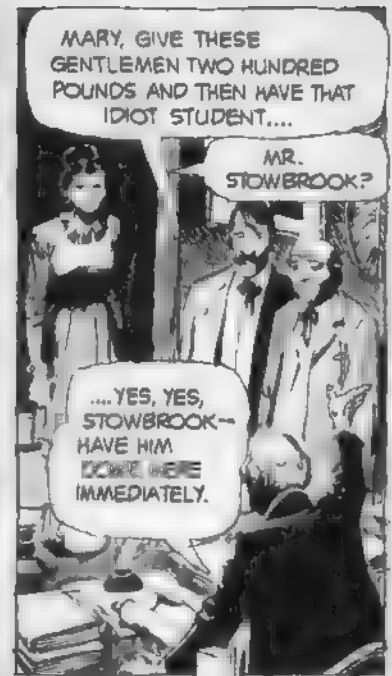
COME IN, COME IN. SO YOU'VE UNCOVERED SOMETHING, EH? GOOD, GOOD. LET'S SEE WHAT YOU HAVE.

WE WON'T PART WITH IT FOR LESS THAN FIFTY POUNDS.



GENTLEMEN, YOU HAVE EARNED YOURSELF A HUNDRED POUNDS EACH. MARY!

LORD!



MARY, GIVE THESE GENTLEMEN TWO HUNDRED POUNDS AND THEN HAVE THAT IDIOT STUDENT....

MR. STOWBROOK?

...YES, YES, STOWBROOK-- HAVE HIM ~~COME HERE~~ IMMEDIATELY.

IT WAS THE WORK HE HAD BEEN SEARCHING FOR, FOR MOST OF HIS LIFE. HE HAD DISCOVERED HINTS TO ITS EXISTENCE, BUT HE HAD ALMOST DESPAIRED OF TRULY FINDING IT UNTIL THIS MOMENT. NOW, HE COULD NOT PAUSE UNTIL HE HAD READ THE MANUSCRIPT THROUGH.



PROFESSOR?

AH, STOWBROOK. SIT DOWN, SIT DOWN. I HAVE SOMETHING REMARKABLE TO SHOW TO YOU.

STOWBROOK, I CALLED YOU HERE BECAUSE OF MY VANITY. I COULD NOT KEEP THIS SECRET TO MYSELF. THIS MANUSCRIPT WAS FOUND BESIDE THE GRAVE OF A WOMAN CALLED LILITH.



LILITH? ISN'T SHE A CHARACTER FROM THE HEBREW TALMUD?



YES, YES! YOU'VE IMPRESSED ME. BUT DON'T INTERRUPT ME AGAIN UNTIL I'VE READ YOU THE MANUSCRIPT. NOW WHERE.....AH, YES IT BEGINS HERE: "MY NAME IS GABRIEL, ANGEL OF THE LORD."



THERE IS AN OLD EXPRESSION WHICH SAYS 'DON'T BLASPHEME YOUR FATHER' WHICH IS SOUND ADVICE. BUT NO ONE MAN, BEAST OR OTHER, EVER FOLLOWED IT AND SO AGAINST OUR BETTER JUDGEMENT WE TELL YOU THE STORY OF...

Lucifer

MY NAME IS GABRIEL, ANGEL OF THE LORD. I WRITE THESE WORDS PARTLY AS A WARNING TO THOSE WHO MIGHT FIND THIS VAULT AND PARTLY DUE TO GUILT, FOR I HOLD MYSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRAGEDY OF LILITH. IF IT WERE NOT FOR ME, SHE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN CREATED, WHICH SHE HERSELF HAD OFTEN WISHED. AND...NO, ENOUGH REPROACH. I MUST BEGIN.

ONE DAY, WELL AFTER ADAM'S CREATION, I WAS ON MY WAY TO MY HOME, WHEN I WAS SURPRISED BY THE UNWELCOME APPROACH OF...

HO, BROTHER, YOUR GREETING DOES NOT SOUND BENEVOLENT. WHAT HAVE YOU BENEATH YOUR ARM?

SATAN!

WHAT BRINGS YOUR UNHOLY SELF FROM THE SEWERS OF THE UNIVERSE?

I WAS ON MY WAY TO SEEK THE MASTER'S FAVOR. BUT I THOUGHT IT BEST IF YOU WOULD SPEAK A KIND WORD FOR ME FIRST. WHAT IS THIS CREATURE?

IT IS A WOMAN, A COMPANION FOR ADAM. I WAS ON MY WAY TO MY STUDIO TO SCULPT A STATUE OF HER.

THEN YOU HAVEN'T SUBMITTED IT YET.

LISTEN, SATAN. I'D LIKE TO
SPEAK TO THE MASTER FOR
YOU BUT...

FORGET IT BROTHER.
I HAVE DECIDED NOT
TO GO ANYWAY. SOME
OTHER DAY PERHAPS.
DON'T FORGET YOUR...
WHAT WAS IT... AH YES,
"WOMAN".

I HEARD HIM LAUGHING
AS I WALKED AWAY FROM
HIM BUT I COULD NOT
GUESS WHAT THE
LAUGHTER WAS FOR. HE
OFTEN LAUGHED.

THE NEXT DAY, MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL, CAME TO
VIEW MY STATUE.

EXCELLENT, GABE. I LIKE THE WAY
YOU HAVE REFINED HER MUSCLES INTO
FLOWING LINES. YOU ARE A POET. THE MASTER
WILL BE PLEASED.

I SAW SATAN YESTERDAY. HE
ALSO SEEMED PLEASED WITH MY
DESIGN.

HA! HA!
HA! HA!
HA!

NO SOONER HAD I
SPOKEN MY BROTHER'S
NAME, WHEN UP
JUMPED THE DEVIL.

THIEF! IT IS I WHO SHOWED
YOU MY DESIGN. SURELY, MICHAEL, YOU
DO NOT BELIEVE THAT
THIS-POET IS CAPABLE
OF SO FINE A
CREATION.

I AM AWARE
OF GABRIEL'S
HONESTY AND
YOURS.

MY REPUTATION IS MY
WEIGHTED CHAIN. BUT LOOK
UPON MY DESIGN AND SEE
IF IT IS NOT SUPERIOR
TO GABRIEL'S. BEELZEBUB!
ASTAROTH, UNVEIL THE
STATUE!

LET THE MASTER DECIDE
WHICH IS BETTER. SURELY,
YOU DON'T THINK THAT
I'M CLEVER ENOUGH TO
TRICK HIM.

SO
BE IT.

I FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO BE CIVIL TO SATAN AS WE WAITED FOR MICHAEL'S RETURN BUT I DID MAKE THE ATTEMPT.

YOU MUST ADMIT, GABE, THAT MY DESIGN WAS A VAST IMPROVEMENT ON YOURS.

I ONLY ADMIT THAT YOU ARE A THIEF AND A FRAUD AND...

INSOLENT WRETCH!

GAAAA!

FROTHING WITH ANGER, I ATTACKED MY HATED ENEMY!

SUDDENLY, MICHAEL APPEARED...


BROTHERS! CEASE! YOU ARE ANGELS NOT JUNGLE BEASTS!




HE BEGAN IT!
HE ATTACKED
ME!

NEVER MIND, MICHAEL!
WHAT OF OUR CREATIONS?
WHICH HAS THE
MASTER
CHOSEN?

HE SAW
MERITS IN BOTH AND
HAS DECIDED TO
LET ADAM CHOOSE
HIS OWN MATE.
LILITH WILL BE
SENT FIRST. THEN
EVE.



THEN I HAVE
WON. ADAM
WILL HAVE NO
DESIRE FOR
EVE ONCE HE
HAS MET
LILITH. HA!
HA! HA!




WE WERE TOLD THAT ADAM MUST
BE ALLOWED TO MAKE HIS OWN
CHOICE WITHOUT OUR
INTERVENTION. BUT WHEN SATAN
DEPARTED, I KNEW THAT HIS
DESTINATION WOULD BE THE
PARADISE OF EDEN.



ADAM,
I AM
LILITH.

MY COMPANION!
YOU ARE A
STRANGE LOOKING
CREATURE. BUT
BEAUTIFUL.
COME WITH ME
AND I WILL SHOW
YOU EDEN.



UPON A CLIFF WHICH
OVERLOOKED ALL OF EDEN,
ADAM PROUDLY SHOWED
OFF HIS DOMAIN.

AND THIS IS
ALL MINE.

ALL? YOU ARE
TOO PUNY A
CREATURE TO
HAVE ALL THIS AS
YOUR DOMINION.

THESE ARE THE FORBIDDEN
WATERS WHICH NOURISH THE TREE
OF FORBIDDEN FRUIT. IF I ASKED
THE CREATOR TO CHANGE ITS
DIRECTION, HE WOULD. HE
LOVES ME.

BAH!
YOU BRAG
TOO MUCH.

IF YOU ARE AS
POWERFUL AS YOU
SAY, THEN TAKE THIS
CREATURE AND
KILL IT!

KILL IT AND
BE A TRUE
MAN. PROVE
YOUR LOVE
FOR ME. KILL
IT --
WEAKLING!

NO!

KILL IT!? KILL
ONE OF THE
MASTER'S CREATIONS-
ARE YOU INSANE!?

SISTER, YOU HAVE NO RIGHT
TO ASK YOUR MAN TO KILL. THAT
IS THE ULTIMATE CRIME
AGAINST THE CREATOR.

THIS
PLANET HAS
SUDDENLY
BECOME
VERY
CROWDED.

GO
TO HELL!

IT WAS THE
FIRST TIME
A CURSE HAD
EVER BEEN
UTTERED
ON THE
NEWLY
FORMED
WORLD.

THIS PART OF
IT HAS BECOME
TOO CROWDED
FOR ME. I HAVE
TOO MUCH TO
SEE AND DO. MAY
YOU BE HAPPY
WITH ADAM,
SISTER.

YOU DON'T HAVE
TO LEAVE.

FOR OVER A YEAR, LILITH WANDERED THROUGH PARADISE AND BECAME BORED WITH ITS CONSISTENCY. THE WEATHER WAS ALWAYS PERFECT, THE VEGETATION ALWAYS PLENTIFUL AND THE ANIMALS ALWAYS FRIENDLY.



FRUSTRATION GREW FROM HER BOREDOM ESPECIALLY WHEN SHE OBSERVED THE HAPPINESS OF ADAM AND EVE.

IF I HAD THE POWER- I WOULD DESTROY HER AND HER MATEFUL

LILITH! IT IS I, SATAN WHO SPEAKS TO YOU. I HAVE BEEN WATCHING YOUR TORMENT FOR TOO LONG. MY DEAR CHILD CANNOT BE MISTREATED THIS WAY.


O SIRE, WHAT AM I TO DO?

DRINK FROM THE FORBIDDEN WATERS. IT WILL GIVE YOU THE POWER TO CHANGE INTO ANY FORM YOU WISH. BE IT BAT, DUST OR WOLF.

O GREAT LUCIFER-SATAN, YOU ARE TRULY THE FINEST GUARDIAN I COULD EVER HAVE.




WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME?




LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE
TO ME! I'LL TEAR YOUR
EYES OUT!

SILENCE! REMEMBER
WHO YOU ARE SPEAKING
TO. YOUR BEAUTY WILL BE
RESTORED WHEN YOU HAVE
DESTROYED YOUR SISTER
EVE. NOW, GO!




LILITH!
IS THE WORLD GOING
MAD!?




GABRIEL!
WHERE
ARE ADAM
AND EVE?

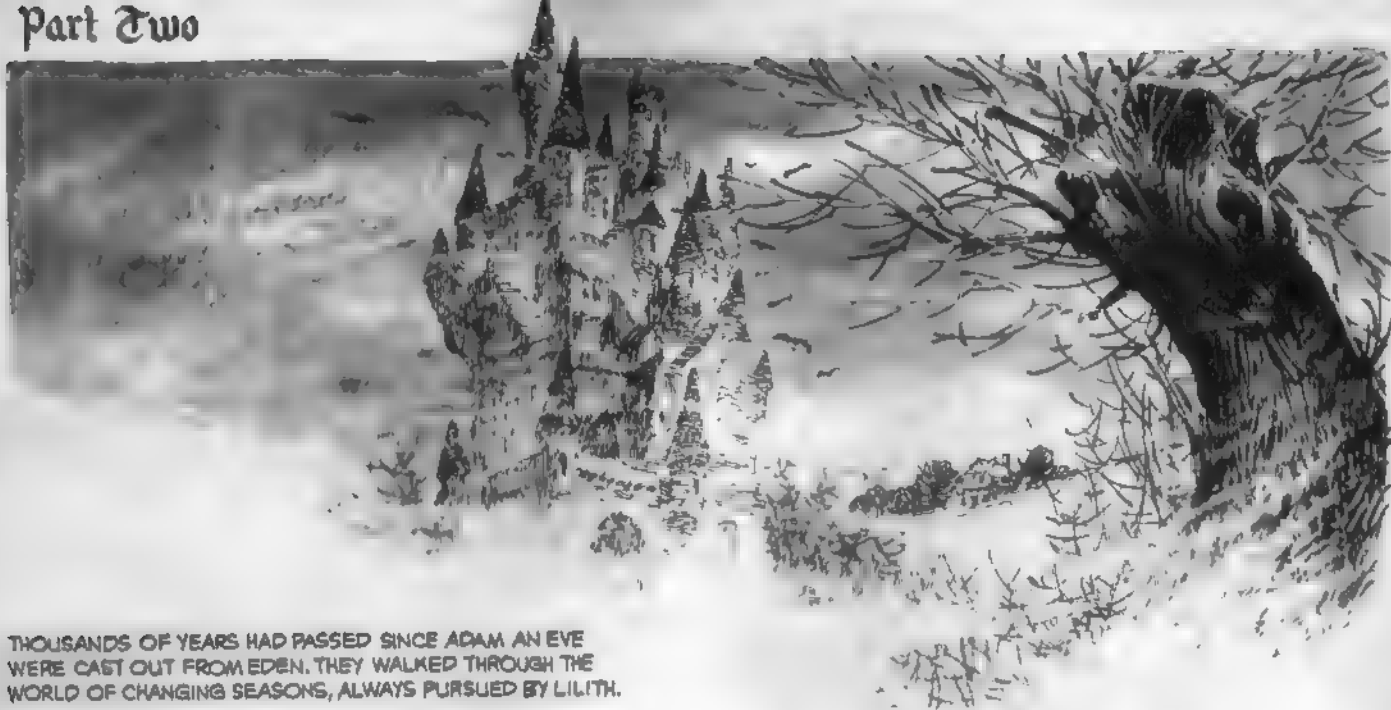
GONE. THEY
ANGERED THE
LORD AND HE SENT
THEM FROM EDEN.
WILL YOU FIND
THEM FOR ME
LILITH AND...



YOU HAVE
ALWAYS BEEN A
GOOD FRIEND TO ME
GABRIEL DESPITE YOUR
RESENTMENT FOR MY DESIGNER.
BUT THERE IS NOTHING I CAN
DO. I MUST FIND EVE AND
DESTROY HER.



I SHOULD HAVE DONE
SOMETHING THEN BUT I WAS SO
COMPLETELY DESILLUSIONED
WITH MANKIND THAT I FLEW BACK
TO HEAVEN AND FOR MANY YEARS
I REFUSED TO HAVE ANYTHING
MORE TO DO WITH THE WORLD.



THOUSANDS OF YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE ADAM AND EVE WERE CAST OUT FROM EDEN. THEY WALKED THROUGH THE WORLD OF CHANGING SEASONS, ALWAYS PURSUED BY LILITH.



THERE WAS NO ESCAPE FROM HER BUT THERE WERE PAUSES. SOMETIMES AN ENTIRE CENTURY WOULD PASS WITHOUT INCIDENT BUT THEN SUDDENLY SHE WOULD BE THERE...

....AND THEY WOULD HAVE TO RUN AGAIN.



ADAM!



EVE, YOU STARTLED ME.

YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING THAT CASTLE AGAIN. DO YOU THINK IT'S SHE?



FROM YEAR SHE GAINS MORE AND MORE POWER. WE CAN'T FIGHT HER WITCHCRAFT.

REMEMBER, SHE HAS TWO GREAT WEAKNESSES, SHE CAN ONLY WALK AT NIGHT AND SHE CANNOT CROSS OVER A THRESHOLD UNLESS SHE IS INVITED.



YES, I'M POSITIVE. LOOK CLOSELY AT THAT UNCOMPLETED TOWER.



THE CASTLE IS BUILDING ITSELF!



WE MUST LEAVE BEFORE THE DARKNESS FALLS.

NO, WE'VE LIVED LIKE FUGITIVES FOR MOST OF OUR LIVES BECAUSE OF HER. WE HAVEN'T DARED TO TELL THE WORLD, OUR OWN CHILDREN, WHO WE ARE. TONIGHT WE FACE HER AND GAIN OUR FREEDOM ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.



AND SO THEY PREPARED FOR A NIGHT OF TERROR BY TURNING THEIR HOME INTO A FORTRESS.

ARE ALL THE SHUTTERS LOCKED.

YES.

AND THE DOORS, ARE THEY...

YES.





QUICKLY!
THE
PLANK!



ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT
THE POUNDING AND
SCREAMING CONTINUED.

BOOM BOOM
BOOM



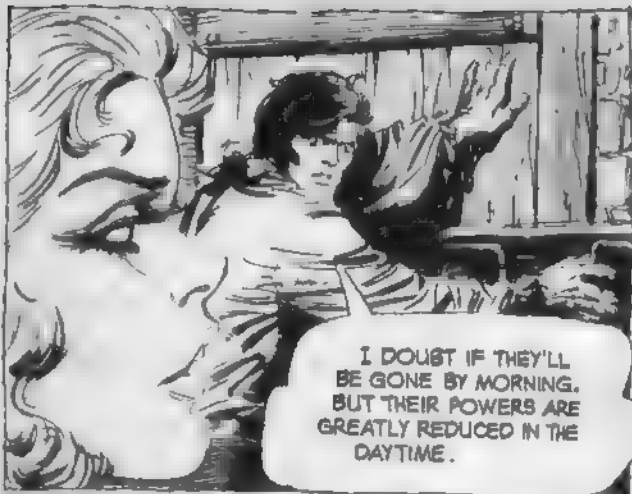
THEY'VE EATEN
OUR FOOD AND
DRANK ALL OF
OUR WATER.

LILITH IS
TRYING DESPERATELY
TO DRIVE US OUT OF
THE HOUSE.

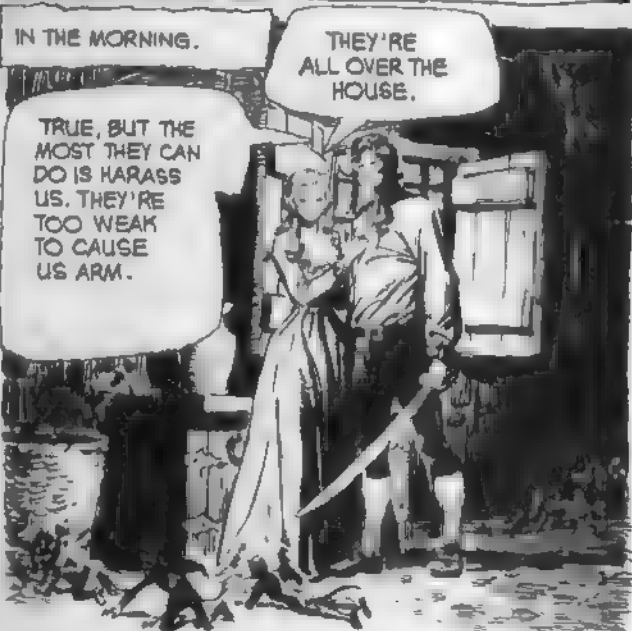


SHE'S DESPERATE?
ADAM, WE'RE THE
DESPERATE ONES. LET
ME GIVE MYSELF TO
HER. IT'S ME SHE
WANTS.

I WON'T HEAR
ANY MORE OF THAT.
NOW, LET'S TRY
TO GET SOME
SLEEP. WE'RE GOING
TO NEED OUR
STRENGTH FOR
TONIGHT.



I DOUBT IF THEY'LL
BE GONE BY MORNING.
BUT THEIR POWERS ARE
GREATLY REDUCED IN THE
DAYTIME.



IN THE MORNING.

THEY'RE
ALL OVER THE
HOUSE.

TRUE, BUT THE
MOST THEY CAN
DO IS HARASS
US. THEY'RE
TOO WEAK
TO CAUSE
US ARM.



AS EVENING NEARED, EVE FELT THE AIR
BECOME HEAVY AND SHE KNEW THAT THE
DARK POWERS WERE GATHERING THEIR
STRENGTH FOR ANOTHER ATTACK.



COME IN,
SISTER. IT HAS
BEEN A LONG
TIME SINCE WE
FACED EACH
OTHER.



I'VE COME
TO ACCEPT
MY DEATH.

AT LAST. COME
FORWARD, MY
SISTER AND DO
AS I SAY.



EYE!



OH GOD,
NO!



SHE WAS
ALWAYS BETWEEN
US. BUT NO MORE. I
DID IT FOR YOU. I
DID IT TO REGAIN
MY BEAUTY FOR
YOU.



IF I COULD HAVE SAVED EVE,
I WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU. BUT
AS IN EDEN WHEN YOU ASKED
FOR THAT ANIMAL'S LIFE AND I
REFUSED, I REFUSE NOW. IT IS
TOO EASY TO FIND REASONS
TO MURDER.



POOR FOOL. THE
WORLD HAS NOT
CHANGED YOU. HOW
GRATEFUL I AM FOR THAT.
REMOVE MY MASK AND
COWL AND SEE THAT FATE
ALSO LOVES THE
INNOCENTS.

EVE!



YOU HAVE WON, AND AS I HAD
PROMISED EVE, I WILL CAUSE NO
MORE HARM TO EITHER OF YOU,
NOR TO YOUR
DESCENDANTS.



COME WITH
US SISTER AND
SHARE LIFE WITH
US AS A FRIEND.

IT WAS
LILITH'S PLAN
THAT YOU
SHOULD BE MY
EXECUTIONER.



IDIOTS!
I HAVE NO
WISH TO SHARE
ANYTHING WITH YOU.
I WILL KEEP MY
VOW. NOW GET
OUT!

BUT WHEN THE FIRST
COUPLE DEPARTED,
THE FURIOUS
TIGERESS MELLOWED
INTO A MOOD OF
FELINE BROODING.



A GREAT BALL OF
QUIVERING RED LIGHT
SUDDENLY APPEARED
BEFORE THE
MELANCHOLY MAIDEN,
AND THEN FORMED
INTO THE PHYSIQUE OF
LUCIFER - SATAN.



WEEP NOT MY
CHILD. YOU WILL FIND
THAT I CAN BE A FORGIVING
FATHER. THE POTION IN
THIS GOBLET WILL
RESTORE YOUR
BEAUTY.

FRIENDSHIP IS
A LUXURY THE EVIL
CANNOT AFFORD. IT
REQUIRES TOO MUCH
TRUST.



AS HER ROUGH SKIN SOFTENED AND CHANGED TO A CREAMY TEXTURE SHE BEGAN TO FEEL A THIRST THAT SHE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND.

IF YOU ARE CONFUSED ABOUT THAT CRAVING YOU FEEL, LET ME EXPLAIN THAT THE POTION HAS A SIDE EFFECT. YOU ARE THIRSTING FOR HUMAN BLOOD. HA! HA! HA!

HA HA HA HA HA!

FIEND! I SWORE NOT TO HARM THEM! I SWORE!




SHE FOUGHT AGAINST THE UNNATURAL DESIRES IN HER BOSOM BUT SHE KNEW THAT SHE WAS ONLY DELAYING THE INEVITABLE.

THE LUST SATAN INSTILLED IN HER WAS TOO STRONG!



A CHILD WAS LOST IN THE WOODS THAT EVENING. SHE WAS TERRIFIED OF THE SHADOWS OF THE TREES, BUT THE SHADOWS WOULD NOT HURT HER. SOMETHING ELSE IN THE DARK FOREST WAS STALKING HER.







LILITH'S BEAUTY
HELPED TO CALM
THE CHILD'S
FEARS.

I'M LOST,
PRETTY LADY.
COULD YOU
SHOW ME THE
PATH TO THE
VILLAGE?


I'LL
TAKE YOU
THERE.




PAPA SAYS
THAT THERE ARE
WOLVES AND
VAMPIRES IN
THESE WOODS.
BUT I NEVER.....




RUN AWAY
FROM ME CHILD.
I AM A
VAMPIRE!



GABRIEL!
HELP ME! I COULD
NEVER DO THAT
AGAIN. ALREADY
I REGRET
CHASING MY
VICTIM AWAY.



I HAVE BEEN
WAITING FOR YOUR
CALL. I WAS
ALWAYS PREPARED
TO AID YOU HAD YOU
ONLY ASKED. BUT I
AM AFRAID THAT THE
ONLY CURE FOR
YOU NOW IS
ETERNAL SLEEP.



THOUGH YOU
WERE THE DAUGHTER
OF SATAN, I LOVED
YOU MORE THAN EVE,
MY OWN CREATION. AND
EVEN AS YOU BECAME
MORE AND MORE EVIL
WITH EACH YEAR, I
FOUND THAT I COULD
NOT STOP LOVING YOU.

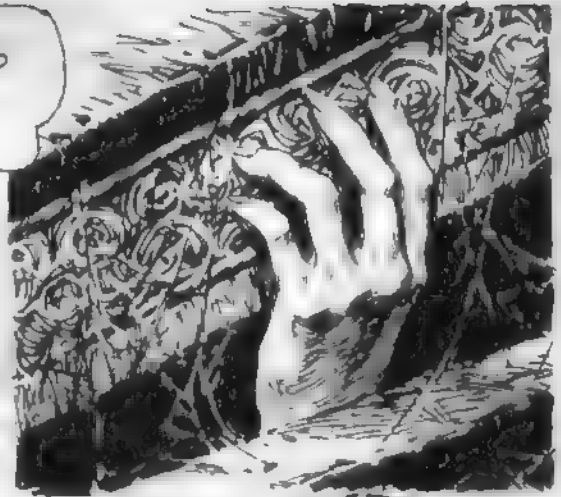
Epilogue...

...I COULD NOT BEAR TO
END HER LIFE AND SO I
PUT HER TO REST WHERE
SHE WILL REMAIN FOR
ETERNITY UNLESS SHE....

THE
OTHER
PAGE IS
BLURRED.

FASCINATING!
PERHAPS THE
LAST PAGE TELLS
HOW TO BREAK
THE CURSE.

WHEN THOSE WORKMEN BROKE
INTO LILITH'S TOMB, THEY ENDED
THE CURSE BY DISTURBING
HER.



IF THAT'S TRUE
THEN LILITH WILL
COME TO LIFE AS
A BLOOD-
THIRSTY VAMPIRE--
UNLESS SHE
REMEMBERS
HER PROMISE
TO EVE.

SHE WILL
REMEMBER
BUT...

...IF YOU'LL REMEMBER,
MR. STOWBROOK, SHE
VOWED NEVER TO HARM EVE
OR HER DESCENDANTS. AH,
HERE'S THE BOOK.

TRUE AND
WE'RE ALL
DESCENDANTS
OF ADAM AND
EVE.



ACCORDING TO DARWIN, WE ARE DESCENDANTS OF APES. THEREFORE WE MUST CONCLUDE THAT EVE'S DESCENDANTS DIED OFF.

BUT ACCORDING TO GABRIEL'S DESCRIPTIONS OF CLOTHING AND BUILDINGS, IT WOULD SEEM AS IF THE STORY ENDED A MERE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

NOT NECESSARILY. EVE'S PEOPLE COULD HAVE DIED OFF AS I SAID, AND THEN MANKIND COULD HAVE BEGUN ALL OVER AGAIN FROM APES.

POSSIBLY, BUT I PREFER TO BELIEVE THAT THE MANUSCRIPT IS NOTHING MORE THAN A FOLK TALE.

EXCUSE ME BUT THERE IS SOMEONE AT THE DOOR AND MARY WENT HOME FOR THE EVENING. I'LL HAVE TO GET IT.

WHAT ARTIST CAN TRULY ABANDON HIS CREATION, STOWBROOK? NOT I! IT'S TAKEN CENTURIES OF SEARCHING, BUT AT LAST LILITH IS BACK... ONCE AGAIN, SHE'S MINE!

PROFESSOR, I'VE DISCOVERED SOMETHING UNUSUAL ABOUT YOUR NAME. DID YOU KNOW THAT REFIGULI SPOelled BACKWARDS IS: "I LUCIFER".

OH YES, MR. STOWBROOK, I KNEW THAT. HA! HA! HA!

WELL, THAT MAY BE GREAT FOR SUMMER, BUT I'M AFRAID IT'S GOING TO BE A PAIN IN THE NECK FOR EVERYONE ELSE. AFTER A LONG NAP LINE THAT CAN BET LILITH'S WORKED UP QUITE THIRST, AND ONLY HER SPECIAL BRAND OF UNCOLA WILL DO.

IN TEARS BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE EERIE BACK ISSUES?

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COLLECTION AND ORDER BACK ISSUES NOW!



1970 YR'BK



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3



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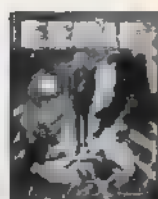
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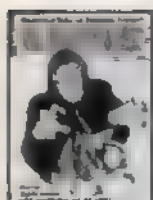
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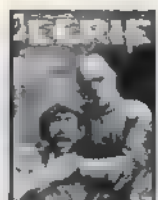
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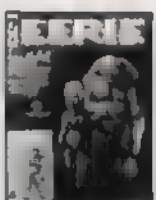
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47

BEEN FEELING CREEPY
LATELY? EERIFY YOURSELF
BY SENDING FOR THESE
MONSTERIFFIC BACK
ISSUES TODAY ... OR
WE'LL HANG YOU BY YOUR
OVERSTUFFED GOLEM!



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PROLOGUE

THERE CAME A SUDDEN CALM IN THE ATMOSPHERIC HEARTBEAT. THE THUNDER OF THE APPROACHING ARMY REACHED KARI'S EARS. HE SWORE IN ORDER TO QUELL HIS FEARS.

ALLAH'S BLOOD.
WHAT DEMON'S TAIL
HAVE I STEPPED UPON
HERE? THAT SOUND CAN
MEAN ONLY ONE
THING...



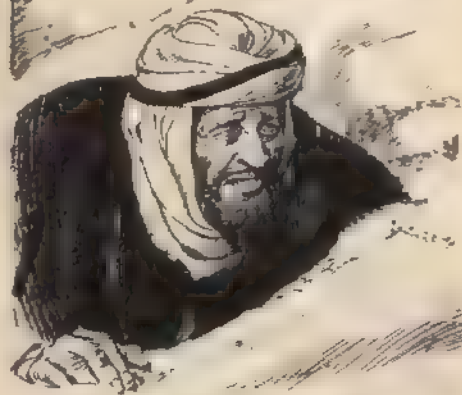
AND THE ARMY STRUCK; ITS MINISCULE PEBBLE-SOLDIERS DOING THEIR CRAZY WAR-DANCE ABOUT KARI'S FEEBLE FRAME TO THE TUNE OF THE DESERT WIND!

...SANDSTORM!



DESPAIR WRAPS KARI IN A BLANKET OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS; AND WHEN HE AWAKENS... IT IS OVER.

SAINTS OF THE
SAND BE PRAISED. AT
LEAST I LIVE! NOW I---
EH? WHAT MOVEMENT
IS THAT I PERCEIVE IN
THE DUST?



DESERT
COBRA!



IT...IT MEANS
TO HAVE M-MY SOUL!
IT CANNOT...

NOOOO!



BUT IN THAT INSTANT...

BY THE SPIRITS! A GUNSHOT.
SOMEONE HAS SAVED MY
LIFE! BUT WHO COULD
HAVE...

CRACK!



HERE I AM, FOR
FOR ALL YOU SLITHERING
DIOTS WHO LOVED TO
LAY IN YOUR SANDSOME
WHEN YOU WERE JUST
TINY TERRORE. IT'S A
ABOUT A GUY CALLED
SNAKE

SNAKE MAN

CERTAINLY YOU OWE
ALLAH A DEBT THIS HOUR,
MAN! THERE BE A THOUSAND-
THOUSAND SPOTS UPON WHICH
ONE MAY STAND IN THE
SAHARA! THAT WE TWO
SHOULD STAND IN THE
SAME SPOT IN THE
SAME CRUCIAL
SECOND IS A
MIRACLE
INDEED!

PERHAPS, MY KIND
BEDOUIN, BUT ALLAH
HAS ALSO SHOWN ME
HIS BLACK SIDE TODAY!
I HAVE LOST MY CAMEL
UPON WHICH WERE THE
GOODS I'D INTENDED
TO SELL FOR FOOD
AND CLOTHING. MAYBE
...MAYBE IT WERE
BETTER I HAD
DIED!

BAH! DO NOT DISGUST ME, MERCHANT. NO GEM IS SO PRECIOUS AS THAT WHICH GLEAMS OF HUMAN EXISTENCE! NO ONE KNOWS THAT BETTER THAN JERIMIAH THE SANDWALKER!

JERIMIAH THE SANDWALKER? WHO'S THAT?

YOU SPEAK TO HIM, DOLT!

WITH THE COMING OF EVENING AND THE FINDING OF AN OASIS, THE STRANGE ENGLISH-ARAB CONSTRUCTS A MAKESHIFT CAMP SITE.

IT IS A GOOD TIME WHEN THE SUN DIES AND THE MOON BATTLES THE BLACKNESS. IT IS AMAZING HOW ONE LITTLE BALL OF BRIGHTNESS MAY CHALLENGE A WHOLE UNIVERSE FULL OF DARKNESS AND STILL SURVIVE.

JERIMIAH? THAT'S NO ARABIAN NAME! THIS FELLOW MUST BE ENGLISH OR AMERICAN OR ... WHAT HOLDS THIS WESTERNER TO A SUN-DRIED LAND SUCH AS THIS?

STOP DAWDLING, OLD MAN! I WANT TO FIND AN OASIS BY THE NEXT MOON! WE NEED MUCH MORE WATER THAN MY LOYAL FRIEND, HERE!

IT IS JUST AS AMAZING THAT ONE MAN SUCH AS YOURSELF MAY CHALLENGE THE ENTIRE SAHARA AND STILL SURVIVE. WHY DO YOU DO IT, JERIMIAH?

THAT IS...A DANGEROUS AND DIFFICULT QUERIE. I DO NOT WISH TO FRIGHTEN YOU WITH MY ANSWER, GOOD KARI. IT /S KARI, IS IT NOT? YES! LET US THEREFORE SIMPLY SAY THAT THE REASON HAS TO DO WITH MY DESERT DIET. MY HEALTH. YOU UNDERSTAND?

I'M AFRAID I DON'T!
YOU HAVEN'T EATEN A
THING SINCE WE GOT
HERE! SURELY
STARVATION IS NOT
YOUR DIET!

FARAH! YOU PLAY ON MY
TEMPER, OLD MAN! IF
ALL THE QUESTIONS THAT A
HUMAN WANTS ANSWERED
WERE ANSWERED UNTO HIM,
WOULD HE NOT CERTAINLY
BE DRIVEN MAD BY THEIR
NON-LOGIC? IT IS BETTER
THAT YOU SHOULD SLEEP
NOW.

HOURS, MINUTES, SECONDS GO BY. IN SLEEP THERE IS NO TIME. IN WAKING
THERE IS--TIME ENOUGH TO FEAR!

HSST! NO
SOUND, MAN! NO
MOVEMENT! BE
STONE AND ROCK
AND ALL THINGS
IMMOBILE!

THAT VOICE OF
HIS IS SO... SO
INHUMAN! THERE'S
SOMETHING WRONG
HERE! SOMETHING
FRIGHTFULLY
WRONG!

THIS IS THE AGE-OLD STARING
GAME; A FAVORITE SPORT OF THE
COBRA! WHEN YOU TAKE YOUR
EYES OFF HIM--HE STRIKES! WHEN
YOU CONTINUE TO STARE AT
HIM--HE HYPNOTISES!
EITHER WAY--HE KILLS!

W-WHAT ARE YOU
G-GOING TO DO?

KILL HIM...

...FIRST!



IF HE HAD EATEN THE MEAT OR COOKED THE LIVER OR LEFT THE BONES, ONE MIGHT STAND IT... BUT WHEN HE ATE THE DAMNED THING WHO...



THE DESERT DAWN IS THE SAHARA ARTIST SUPREME. SHE PAINTS THE SANDS A DELICATE TONGUE-PINK.

WE SHOULD REACH AN OUTPOST THIS DAY. I SHALL SAY MY FAREWELLS AS SOON AS WE DO.

NO! I WANT TO--TO STAY WITH YOU! I WANT TO HELP YOU!

ARE YOU MAD? DO YOU KNOW THE THINGS YOU SAY?

I AM A MERCHANT, JERIMIAH. I TRAVEL THE DESERT AND MEET MANY BUT BEFRIEND NONE. NEVER HAVE I DONE UNTO MY HUMAN BRETHREN ANY ACT OF KINDNESS OR CHARITY. NEVER HAVE I LOVED AS ALLAH HAS COMMANDED ALL TO LOVE. I AM OLD NOW ... AFRAID OF THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT...

THE DAY WHEN ALLAH SAYS; "AND WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, KARI, THAT YOU DESERVE THE GIFT OF ETERNAL REST?" I WANT TO BE ABLE TO SAY; "I HELPED MY BROTHER, JERIMIAH."

THE PACT IS MADE!

DO YOU REMEMBER, KARI, WHEN I TOLD YOU OF THE ANSWERS THAT DRIVE MEN MAD? THE TRUTHS MANKIND SHUTS OUT OF HIS MIND IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT STAY SANE? THE STORY OF JERIMIAH THE SANDWALKER IS SUCH A TRUTH!

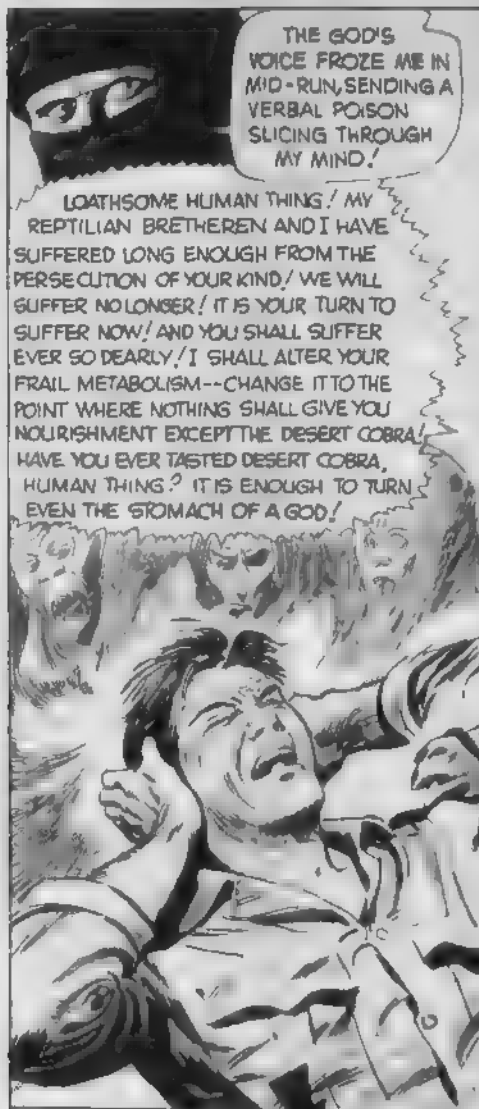
THERE ARE CREATURES; POWERFUL CREATURES WHO DWELL UPON THE SAHARA SANDS THAT WE, FOR LACK OF A BETTER DESCRIPTIVE PHRASE, REFER TO AS GODS. ONE SUCH GOD I HAVE MET. HIS NAME IS SLIKANDAI AND HIS PURPOSE IN EXISTENCE IS TO OVERSEE THE REPTILES WHO GROVEL IN THE SAHARA DUST.

IT WAS THREE YEARS PAST AND I WAS A YOUNG COLLECTOR OF REPTILE SKIN.

YOUR NEW YORK MANUFACTURERS MAY MAKE MANY WOMENS' PURSES WITH THIS BARREL OF COBRAS, MASTER JERRY! WE SHALL INDEED BE WEALTHY THIS DAY!

HOW WRONG MY FRIEND WAS! WEALTH WAS REPLACED BY DEATH! AND THOUGH I RAN, I DID NOT ESCAPE. HOW COULD I ESCAPE ONE WHO HAD USED THE VERY WINDS THEMSELVES TO TOPPLE A BARREL OF POISONOUS SNAKES ON MY CLOSEST COMPANION? HOW COULD I ESCAPE FROM... SLIKANDAI!

YAHHH!



THE GOD'S
VOICE FROZE ME IN
MID-RUN, SENDING A
VERBAL POISON
SLICING THROUGH
MY MIND!

LOATHSOME HUMAN THING! MY
REPTILIAN BRETHREN AND I HAVE
SUFFERED LONG ENOUGH FROM THE
PERSECUTION OF YOUR KIND! WE WILL
SUFFER NO LONGER! IT IS YOUR TURN TO
SUFFER NOW! AND YOU SHALL SUFFER
EVER SO DEARLY! I SHALL ALTER YOUR
FRAIL METABOLISM--CHANGE IT TO THE
POINT WHERE NOTHING SHALL GIVE YOU
NOURISHMENT EXCEPT THE DESERT COBRA!
HAVE YOU EVER TASTED DESERT COBRA,
HUMAN THING? IT IS ENOUGH TO TURN
EVEN THE STOMACH OF A GOD!

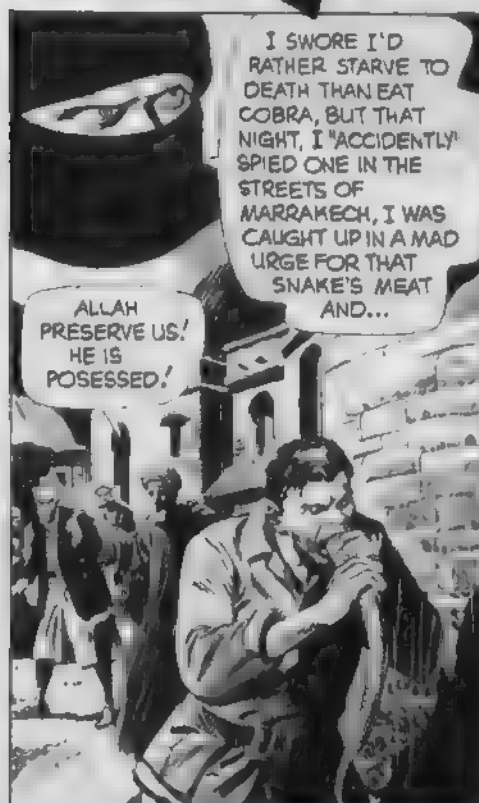


RUMORS SPREAD
FAST IN MARRAKECH AND I
WAS SOON THE TARGET FOR
EVERY BEDOUIN IN THE CITY
WHO WANTED TO CLAIM HIS
MANHOOD BY DESTROYING THE
ACCURSED SNAKE MAN. SO I
STOLE A CAMEL AND SOME
CLOTHES AND TURNED MY
HEELS FROM A
DANGEROUSLY UNCIVILIZED
CIVILIZATION.



SO IT IS AND HAS
BEEN THESE PAST
THREE YEARS. DO
YOU KNOW THAT
SOME DO NOT
EVEN BELIEVE THAT
I EXIST? FANTASY?
PURE MYTH! THEY
YELL, IGNORANT
SL--

BUT
WHERE ARE
WE GOING
NOW?



I SWORE I'D
RATHER STARVE TO
DEATH THAN EAT
COBRA, BUT THAT
NIGHT, I "ACCIDENTLY"
SPIED ONE IN THE
STREETS OF
MARRAKECH, I WAS
CAUGHT UP IN A MAD
URGE FOR THAT
SNAKE'S MEAT
AND...

ALLAH
PRESERVE US!
HE IS
POSSESSED!



TO THE ARAKEIN
OASIS--TO THE TEMPLE
OF SLIKANDAI!

THERE IS SAND AND SAND AND SAND AND... GRASS! AN OASIS THE SWEET SMELL OF EXOTIC SPICE! THE HEART STOPPING SIGHT OF SLIKANDAI'S STONE TEMPLE!

GREAT ALLAH!
IS THAT
SLIKANDAI?



NO, KARI. MERELY
HIS AWESOME GUARDIAN!
SLIKANDAI DWELLS
WITHIN THE HEART OF THAT TOWER.
OUR OBJECTIVE IS HIS TEMPLE'S
ROOFTOP WHENCE COMES THAT DEVILISH
GLOW! ONCE WE REACH THAT SUMMIT
AND DIVE INTO THAT RADIANCE, WE SHALL
BE TRANSPORTED DIRECTLY INTO
SLIKANDAI'S CHAMBERS!

THE NOISES OF STILLNESS POUND IN JERIMIAH'S BRAIN;
THE CLICK OF HIS BOOTS ON THE TEMPLE WALL, THE
HISS OF AN UNSPEAKABLE REPTILIAN KILLER AND THE
GENTLE SINGING OF THE OASIS BREEZE!



BUT HOW
DO WE GET
PAST THAT
BEAST?

BY SENDING A BULLET THROUGH THE SOFT
UNDERSIDE OF ITS NECK! I WILL CLIMB UP TO
THE THING AND COAX IT INTO A POSITION OF
REARING UP ITS HEAD. IN THAT MOMENT YOU
MUST SHOOT HIM;
ACCURATELY; WITH
FINALITY!



FOR SHOULD
YOU MISS
MERCHANT, THERE
SHALL BE A PLAY OF
SUCH GRUESOME
IRONY-- THAT SNAKE
WILL HAVE ME FOR
DINNER!



BUT I SHALL NOT
TELL YOU THAT! FOR IT
IS SAID EVER SO
TRUTHFULLY THAT THE
HANDS WHICH TREMBLE
IN UNCERTAINTY CARRY
DEATH MANY FINGERS
DEEP!

AND KARI FOCUSES HIS ATTENTION ON HIS TARGET WHILE
FIGHTING THE URGE TO CHECK THE OASIS GRASS
AT HIS FEET FOR SIGNS OF HIDDEN DESERT
COBRA!



SUDDENLY, JERIMIAH'S SWORD TASTES THE AIR!



AND THE NERVE-WRACKING SILENCE IS BROKEN BY...



THE SNAKEMAN CLIMBS DOWN, SCOOPS KARI UP, AND ONCE MORE BEGINS HIS SCALE UPWARDS.





HERE WE GO! HOLD YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU, MERCHANT!



THERE IS A MOMENT OF ALMOST CONCRETE COLDNESS THAT KNOCKS THE PAIR BREATHLESS!



AND THEN...

WHAT HAPPENED?

THE MYSTICAL EQUIVALENT OF TELEPORTATION! WE'RE NOW IN THE PRIVATE SITTING ROOM OF SLIKANDAI!

INDEED YOU ARE!



SLIKANDAI!

GREETINGS, JERIMIAH! WHAT FOOLHARDY MODE OF THOUGHT BRINGS YOU HERE?



NONE! IT IS IN HOPE OF HONOR AND PROMISES KEPT THAT I COME HITHER, YOU SLY VIPER! I DEMAND MY HUMANITY BACK!

YOU DEMAND? HA! HA! YOU CAN DEMAND NOTHING OF SLIKANDAI, LITTLE MAN!

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, EVIL ONE! EVEN YOUR KIND OF DIRT HAVE RULES AND CODES. FOR ME TO DEMAND MY RELEASE FROM YOUR CURSE, I NEED PERFORM THREE CONDITIONS. ONE: I MUST HAVE BEEN UNDER YOUR SPELL FOR THREE REVOLUTIONS OF MY HOME PLANET. TWO: I MUST DRAW THE BLOOD OF YOUR DEMON SERPENT. THR...

YES! YES! I AM WELL VERSED UPON THE THREE CONDITIONS. YOU, MERCHANT, WHY COME YOU HERE WITH THIS HALF-MAN?

I-I WANT TO HELP HIM--TO DO FOR HIM!

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT MAN!

IT'S TRUE!

AT KARI'S WORDS, A HORRIBLE SMILE CROSSES SUIKANDA'S FACE. WITH ONE SWIFT MOTION HE WAVES HIS HAND AT JERIMIAH AND...

YOU ARE FREE, JERIMIAH!

HE'S DISAPPEARING! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?

W-WHAT ABOUT ME? HOW ABOUT S-SENDING ME BACK, TOO?

WHY, MERCHANT! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO DO FOR HIM. AND THAT IS JUST THE THIRD CONDITION THAT JERIMIAH HAD TO FULFILL TO BE FREE: THE THIRD CONDITION OF...

...A WILLING HUMAN SACRIFICE!

YAHHHHH!

WHY, MERELY SENT HIM BACK TO YO'JR WORLD WHOLE; AS A FREE AND UNENCHANTED HUMAN!

NOW WASN'T THAT A DAINTY DISH TO SET BEFORE THE THING?

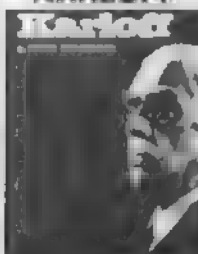
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prologue.

HEY, JUNE...
C'MERE! THIS
YOU GOTTA
SEE!

WHAT IS IT,
ABE? I'VE GOT
TO WATCH THE
ROAST...

WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?
I DON'T SEE
ANYTHING...

THIS'LL JUST
TAKE A
SECOND.

NO, IT'S CLOSE
TO THE BUILDING--YOU
HAVE TO LEAN OUT THE
WINDOW AND LOOK
DOWN...

LOOK OUT THE
WINDOW AND TELL
ME IF I'M *IMAGINING*
WHAT I SAW.

I'M LEANING OUT
AS FAR AS I CAN, ABE,
WHAT IS IT I'M SUPPOSED
TO *FIND* OUT HERE?

JUST KEEP
LOOKING, JUNE--

YOU WOULDN'T
BELIEVE ME IF I
TOLD YOU.

IT'S SOMETHING
INCREDIBLY....

UNEXPECTED!



AWFUL LOT OF TROUBLE...

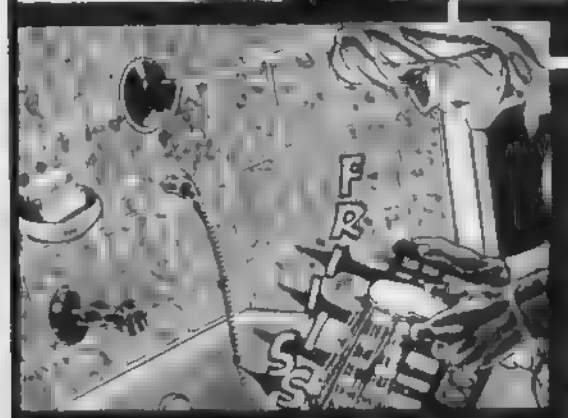
BUT THE PLEASURE'S MORE THAN WORTH THE ELABORATE SET-UP!

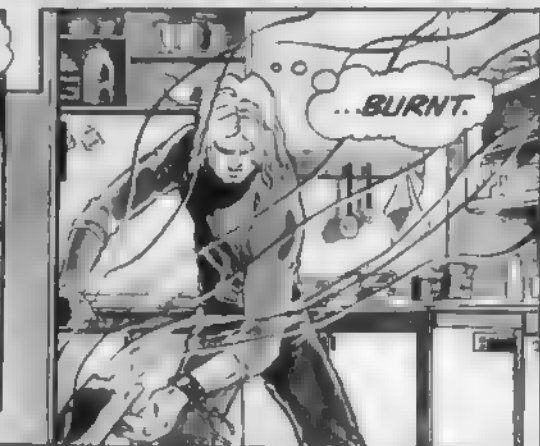


WELL, FRIGHT FOLLOWERS, I SEE YOU'VE BEEN EAVESDROPPING ON ABE REICH'S RUTHLESS RUSE TO PERFORATE HIS POOR WIFE. WELL, WHY DON'T WE WATCH THE ENSUING SEGMENTS OF THIS SORDID LITTLE TALE TOGETHER AND DISCOVER ALONG WITH ABE THAT

THE

MESSAGE IS THE MEDIUM



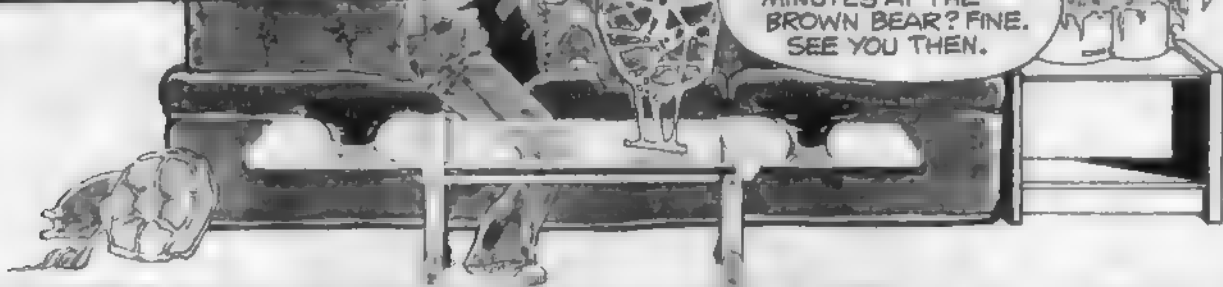


WONDER WHAT'S FOR DINNER...

YEAH, SHE'S GONE--LEFT JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO...

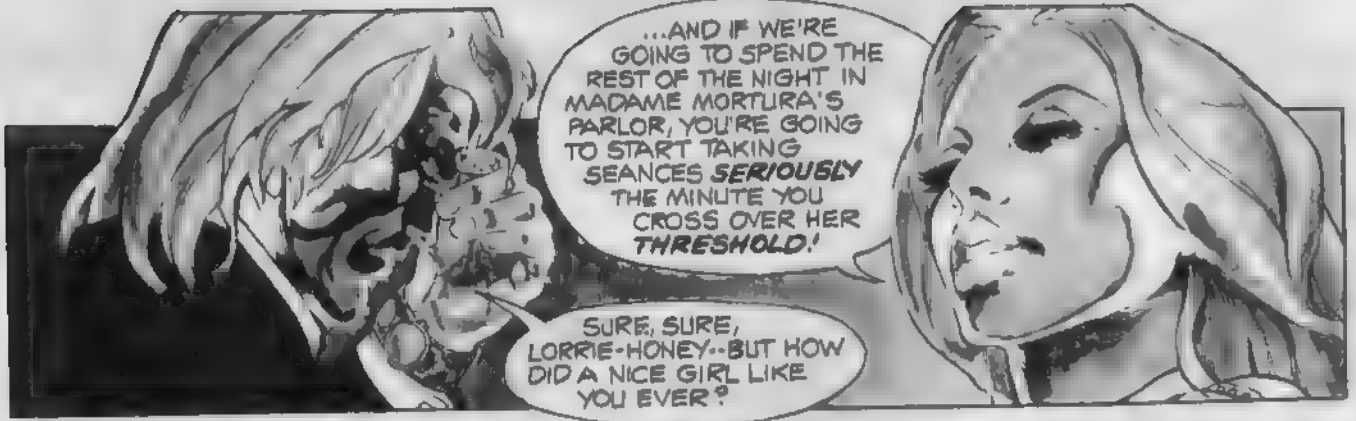
YES, THE WAY WE PLANNED.

SURE I'M FREE TONIGHT---AND RAVENOUS...FIFTEEN MINUTES AT THE BROWN BEAR? FINE. SEE YOU THEN.



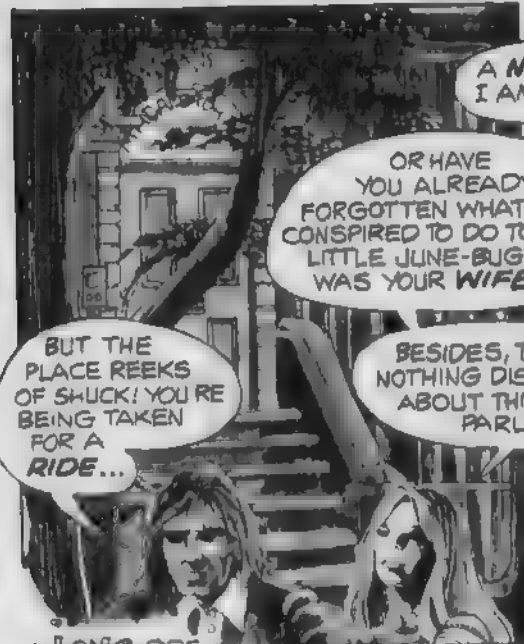
SAY-ONSE?! SPOOKS AND ALL THAT? YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDIN'! BABY-DOLL.

NO, I DON'T HAVE TO BE KIDDING, ABRAHAM. AND IF YOU WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF THE NIGHT WITH ME, YOU'D BETTER WANT TO SPEND IT AT MADAME MORTURA'S PARLOR...



...AND IF WE'RE GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF THE NIGHT IN MADAME MORTURA'S PARLOR, YOU'RE GOING TO START TAKING SEANCES **SERIOUSLY** THE MINUTE YOU CROSS OVER HER **THRESHOLD!**

SURE, SURE, LORRIE-HONEY--BUT HOW DID A NICE GIRL LIKE YOU EVER?



A NICE GIRL I AM NOT--

OR HAVE YOU ALREADY FORGOTTEN WHAT WE CONSPIRED TO DO TO THE LITTLE JUNE-BUG WHO WAS YOUR **WIFE?**

BUT THE PLACE REEKS OF SHUCK! YOU'RE BEING TAKEN FOR A **RIDE...**

BESIDES, THERE'S NOTHING DISREPUTABLE ABOUT THIS SEANCE PARLOR.



WELCOME. IF YOU WILL ENTER THE PARLOR, MADAME MORTURA WILL SEE THAT YOU ARE TAKEN ON A **JOURNEY...** INTO THE SHROUDED REALM OF SPIRITS.

YOU CAN CUT THE MEMORIZED HOCUS-POCUS LINGO, BORIS--

THE LADY AND I ARE HERE STRICTLY FOR **KICKS...**

A LONG RIDE...

QUITE RIGHT. WITHOUT THE COOPERATION OF YOUR AUXILIARY WILLS, NONE BUT THE MOST **DETERMINED** SPIRIT WOULD BE ABLE TO BRIDGE THE NETHER GAP INTO THIS WORLD. A SCEPTIC **NEGATES** THE WILL OF THE OTHERS...

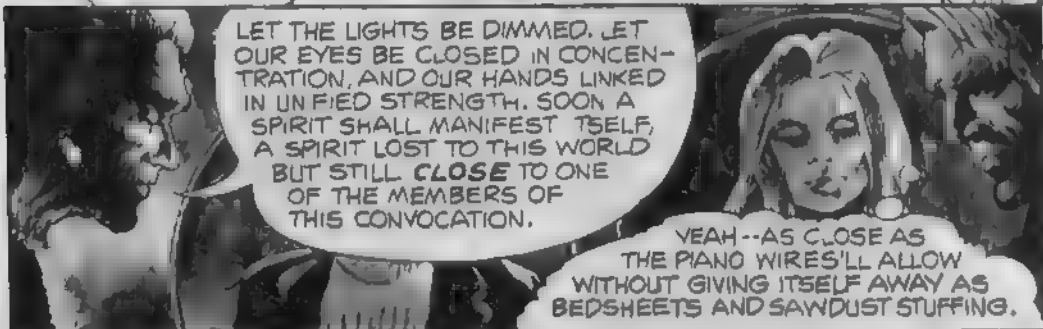
ABE, THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH YOU MUST BELIEVE **YOURSELF.**

UH.. WE'LL STAY.. FOR THE **LADY'S** SAKE.

THE TABLE OF THE SEANCE HOLDS NO SEATS FOR SCOFFERS OR THOSE SEEKING KICKS. THE LINK BETWEEN THIS AND THE SPIRIT WORLD IS TENUOUS--DIS-BELIEF ONLY STRAINS IT MORE. I, AS THE MEDIUM **AM** THAT LINK...AND I HAVE NO DESIRE TO **BREAK.** PLEASE--**LEAVE** IF YOU FIND HUMOR IN THE AIR WITHIN THIS ROOM. OTHERWISE...**BE SEATED.**



MY GOD.. IT CAN'T BE...



LET THE LIGHTS BE DIMMED. LET OUR EYES BE CLOSED IN CONCENTRATION, AND OUR HANDS LINKED IN UNIFIED STRENGTH. SOON A SPIRIT SHALL MANIFEST ITSELF, A SPIRIT LOST TO THIS WORLD BUT STILL **CLOSE** TO ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS CONVOCATION.

YEAH--AS CLOSE AS THE PIANO WIRES'LL ALLOW WITHOUT GIVING ITSELF AWAY AS BEDSHEETS AND SAWDUST STUFFING.

REMEMBER ---ONLY THE MOST **DETERMINED** SPIRIT MAY BREAK THROUGH THE OPPOSITION OF SCORN AND DISBELIEF..

JUNE!

YES, ABE,
I'M HERE. I
HAVEN'T GONE
TO HELL--I'VE
ALREADY
BURNED...ON
EARTH. AND
I CAN'T
PROCEED TO THE
HIGHER
PLANES UNTIL...
I SET
MATTERS
RIGHT WITH
YOU...

NO

IT'S **FAKE!**
SHAM--TRICKERY--
MIRRORS--FAKE,
I SAY...
FAKE!!

YOU HADN'T BARGAINED FOR
THIS, DEAR ABE?

AH, BUT AS SOON
AS YOU DID WHAT YOU
DID, YOU SIMUL-
TANEOUSLY STRUCK
UP AN IMPLICIT
BARGAIN WITH
SATAN..

NO..
IT'S..



"HE'S BROKEN
THE HAND-
CIRCLE--
THE SPIRIT'S VANISHING--



--DISSOLVING--!



THE SPIRIT'S
GONE NOW.

FAKE!

THOMPSON



IT COULDN'T
HAVE BEEN JUNE--
LORRIE PUT YOU UP
TO THIS! ADMIT IT--
YOU'RE IN THIS
TOGETHER--!

LOOK OUT--
HE'S **CRAZY!**



YOU'RE
WITH THE
POLICE..

--TRYING
TO TRAP
ME!

WELL...

KRASHUMP!



..YOU WON'T..



..DO..

KUNK



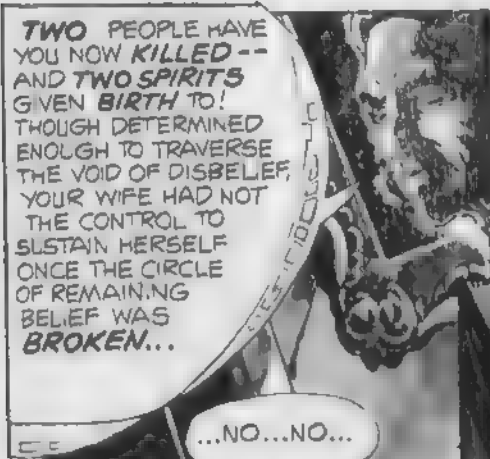
IT!!

ABE-- STOP IT! STOP IT! YOU...YOU'VE...

KUNCH

...KILLED MADAME MORTURA!

NO.. COMING OUT OF HER BODY-- IT *ISN'T* FAKE! IT...IT'S TRUE... **REAL!**



TWO PEOPLE HAVE YOU NOW KILLED -- AND TWO SPIRITS GIVEN BIRTH TO! THOUGH DETERMINED ENOUGH TO TRAVERSE THE VOID OF DISBELIEF, YOUR WIFE HAD NOT THE CONTROL TO SUSTAIN HERSELF ONCE THE CIRCLE OF REMAINING BELIEF WAS **BROKEN...**

...NO...NO...



...BUT KNOW **THIS**, MURDERER-- THAT MADAME MORTURA WAS A POTENT MEDIUM IN LIFE, POSSESSING A CLOSE AFFINITY TO THE SPIRITS OF DEATH...AND IN **DEATH**, AS A **SPIRIT HERSELF**, MADAME MORTURA IS A CRUCIBLE OF SEETHING **VENGEANCE**...AND HAS NO **NEED** FOR THE CIRCLE OF BELIEF!



SHALL I END IT **QUICKLY**, ABRAHAM REICH? SHALL I WRAP A HURRICANE AROUND YOUR HEART? SHALL I CAUSE YOU TO SWALLOW YOUR OWN TONGUE INTO YOUR LUNGS?

SHALL I SEND SIZZLING ACID TO COURSE THROUGH YOUR VEINS AND EXPLODE INTO YOUR HEART AND BRAIN?

SHALL I CAUSE YOUR BRAIN TO **EXPAND** AND YOUR SKULL TO **SHRINK** AT THE SAME TIME?

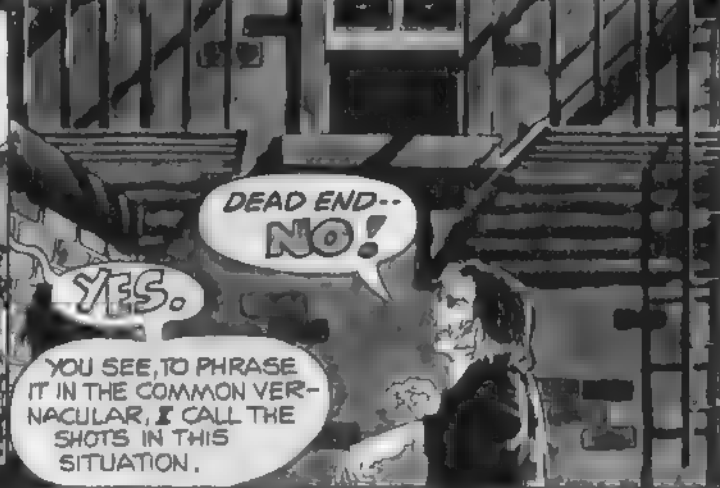
NO, I THINK NOT. I THINK **FLIGHT...AND PURSUIT** SHALL PROLONG IT, AND INSPIRE WITHIN YOU DEVOUT BUT USELESS PENITENCE. YOU ARE LOCKED WITHIN AN OBSOLETE VESSEL OF SWEATING, PANTING, RESTRICTED FLESH AND BLOOD.



NEED I BELABOR THE POINT THAT I MUST NO LONGER OBSERVE SUCH CONSTRAINTS...?



CUL-DE-SAC--
DEAD END
WHEREVER YOU
RUN, DEAR
MURDERER...



DEAD END--
NO!

YES.

YOU SEE, TO PHRASE
IT IN THE COMMON VER-
NACULAR, I CALL THE
SHOTS IN THIS
SITUATION.



JUNE!

YES, ABE. I
COULDN'T STAY
AWAY-- COULDN'T
LET MADAME
MORTURA KILL YOU.
I... STILL FEEL
SOMETHING FOR
YOU, ABE. **TRUST**
ME. LEAP THIS BRICK
WALL, ABE. IT
WILL END YOUR
FLIGHT....



I'M SURE ABE RAN
DOWN THIS WAY...WHAT'S
THAT-- FLYING THROUGH
THE AIR--! AND...SOME-
THING'S **WRONG** WITH
THE **STEERING**
WHEEL...

--PULLING TO
THE LEFT--

GOING
TO--



YES, ABE...I
STILL FEEL
SOMETHING
FOR YOU--

SKREE
REE
RASH!
FWOOOON

HATRED!

ORDINARILY, ANY
MESSAGES FROM
BEYOND ARE
TRANSMITTED THROUGH
ME, THE MEDIUM, AS
I LAPSE INTO A STATE
OF SEMI-CATATONIA.
BUT, YOU WILL BE
DELIGHTED TO LEARN,
WE NOW HAVE TWO
FAMILIARS, SPIRIT
GUIDES TO ASSIST
IN OUR DEALINGS
WITH THE SPIRIT
WORLD.

YOU
MAY CALL
THEM **ABE...**
AND
LORRIE.



LOOKS LIKE ABE'S
REALLY GOTTEN
INTO THE
SPIRIT OF
THINGS, EH
CREEP-CRAVERS?



I'M SORRY TO
DISAPPOINT THOSE
OF YOU WHO READ OF
MY DEATH IN TODAY'S
PAPER AND WERE
EXPECTING A **SUBSTI-
TUTE** MEDIUM TONIGHT.
SUFFICE TO SAY, I AM
NOT DEAD. THOSE
WHO GOVERN THE
SPIRIT WORLD ARE
KIND TO ONES WHO
PASS AWAY
BEFORE THEIR
ORDAINED
TIMES.

NOW,
PERMIT ME
TO INTRODUCE
MY NEW ASSISTANT,
JUNE REICH!

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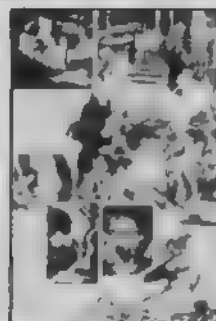
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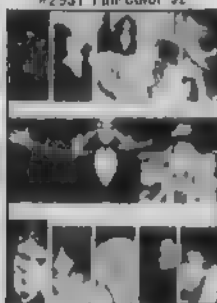
CREEPY #48 Cover
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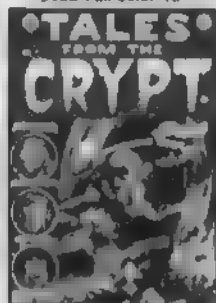
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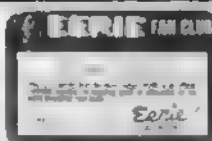
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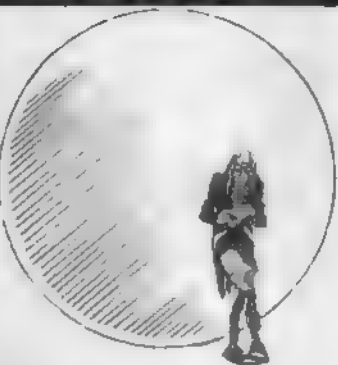


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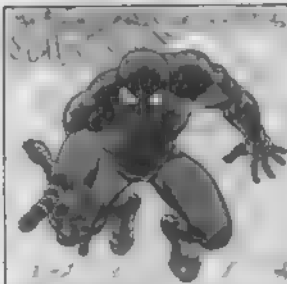
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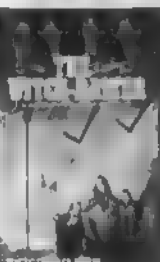
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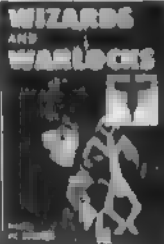
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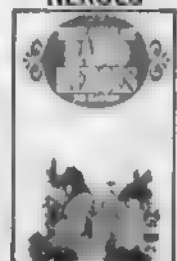
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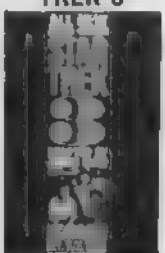
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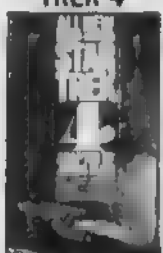
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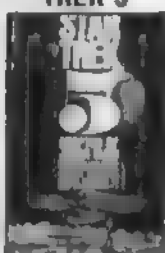
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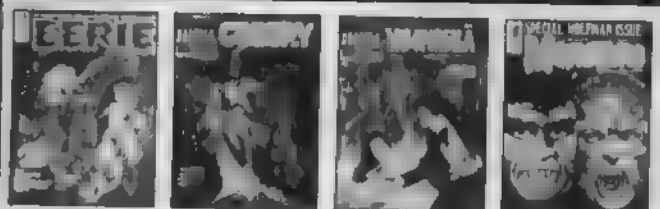
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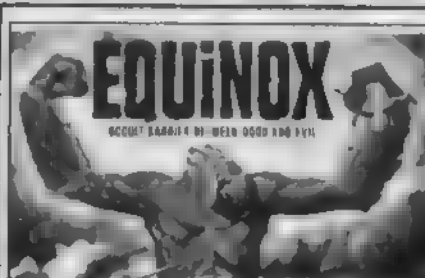
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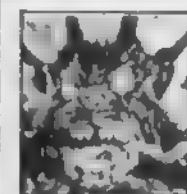
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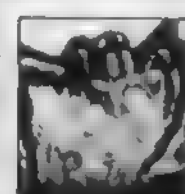
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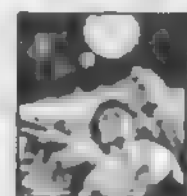
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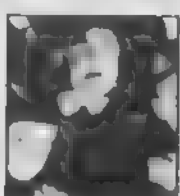
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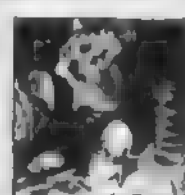
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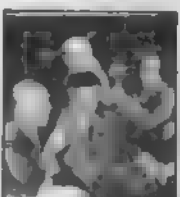
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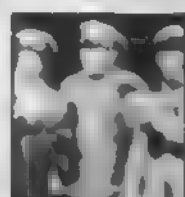
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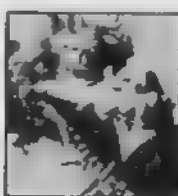
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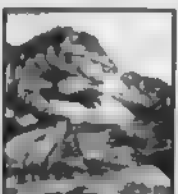
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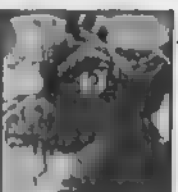
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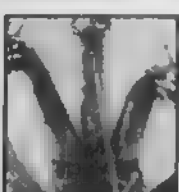
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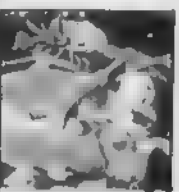
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THE LAST GLANCE THE SUN BURNS THE QUICK
STRENGTH OF THE WARRIOR OF ALIEN
AND CLIMBER THROUGH STRANGE, DREADED
COLAGE. THE DAX THE WARRIOR SITS
NEATH CRIMSON SHADOWS AND EYES
LEAVES... HE SITS AND HE WONDERS...

FOR DAX IS ALONE WITHOUT A HOME
BORN HIS OWN... WITHOUT THE FIGHT
OF A HERITAGE... AND THE
PAIN OF A BILLION-BILLION
LIFE FORMS...

GEMMA-5

DAX THE WARRIOR

THE WORLD OF GEMMA-5
WAS PEACEFUL, AND AFTER MANY
BATTLES THE WARRIOR DAX NEEDS
THE SOFT CALM OF THE LUSH SPACE
PARADISE. BUT PEACE AND CALM
IS NOT MEANT FOR THE WARRIOR
THIS NIGHT...

WHAT?
A CRY?
IT CAN'T
BE

THE PLANET
IS BARREN...THERE
IS NO ONE HERE
BUT ME!

8
YET
STILL THE
SCREAM
PERSISTS!

AARGH

DAX RACES ACROSS THE CRIMSON WELDT, TOWARDS THE SOUND OF THE URGENT SCREAM. AND THEN, LIKE SOME HIDEOUS MURDER FROM HELL, HE SEES IT.

A BEAST--
ATTACKING THOSE
HELPLESS HUMANS!!!!

NO BEAST,
AS LONG AS DAX
LIVES, THESE HUMANS
WILL NOT BE YOUR
DINNER.

THE GREAT CREATURE
SPINS, LIFTING THE
SCREAMING HUMAN BE-
TWEEN ITS POWERFUL
TALONS, AND HURLS
HIM VICIOUSLY ACROSS
THE AZURE SKY.

AND THEN A BEAST
GRINS, AFTER A SMILE
IT DOES... A SINISTER
HUNGRY SMILE WITH
WIDENED LIPS AND BLOOD-
STAINED TEETH...

DAX'S MUSCLES TENSE, HE
STARES AHEAD, WAITING,
CONCENTRATING, AND THEN
AT JUST THE RIGHT MOMENT
HE STROKES.

THE ANIMAL SNORTS A
WACKING LAUGH... NO FURTHER
YOU WILL NOT KEEP ME FROM
MY DINNER... RATHER YOU
WILL PROVIDE MY DESSERT.

CHAK!

HIS EBON BLADE
SHIMMERING IN THE
MOONLESS NIGHT,
DAX WAITS AROUND
HIMSELF AS
THE GREAT BEAST
LUMBERS TOWARDS
HIM...

HIS BLADE PERGES THE GIANT
BEAST'S NECK, AND WITH A
QUICK GASP, DIES.



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MAN? YOU TOOK A VERY NASTY THROW.

I AM NOT HURT, BARBARIAN. NOW, REMOVE YOUR HANDS...

...BEFORE I REMOVE THEM FOR YOU... FROM YOUR WRISTS.



WHY DID YOU INTERFERE WITH MY LITTLE SPORT, BARBARIAN? I NEEDED NO AID IN DISPATCHING THAT FOOL OF A BEAST!



THAT'S NOT THE WAY I SAW IT, "FRIEND"!



AND SUDDENLY THERE WAS ANOTHER VOICE...ONE SOFT... FEMININE...

YOUR COMPANION SEEMS TO DESIRE YOU, WARRIOR. YET, WHAT SHE WANTS WITH ONE SUCH AS YOU I CANNOT SEE.

DO NOT BE SMART, BARBARIAN... RUDOLF DOES NOT LIKE THAT.



SHE STANDS...HER OWN TWINKLING... LIKE A STAR-LIT JEWEL...

WHAT SHE WANTS WITH ME IS NO BUSINESS OF YOURS, BARBARIAN... BUT YOU MAY KNOW THIS... SHE IS NOT MY COMPANION... SHE IS MY SLAVE... TO DO WITH AS I WISH.



NOW LEAVE THIS PLANET, BARBARIAN... RUDOLF DOESN'T LIKE YOU, AND WHAT RUDOLF DOES NOT LIKE, HE FINDS A WAY TO DESTROY.

NOW BEGONE! YOU ARE TRYING MY PATIENCE.



NO, WARRIOR, I'LL NOT LEAVE THIS PLACE TILL I'VE DONE YOU IN.



AND TAKEN YOUR LOVELY WOMAN FROM YOU...

THAT DAX SWEARS

TONIGHT, WHEN THEY BOTH SLEEP...TONIGHT I SHALL **SNEAK** INTO THEIR CAMP... AND **TAKE** THE WOMAN AS MINE..

THEN...ONCE SHE IS SAFE MY BLADE WILL **DRINK** DEEP INTO RUDOLF'S BLOOD. SLEEP WELL, WARRIOR...IT SHALL BE THE **LAST** SLEEP YOU WILL EVER KNOW.

...TONIGHT...

NIGHT... HE **TIES** HER SO SHE WILL NOT ESCAPE....BUT HIS ROPES ARE NOT **STRONG** ENOUGH TO KEEP DAX AWAY....

DAX **CRAWLS** TO THE EDGE OF THE TREE'S LIMB, AND UNFURLS A ROPE MADE OF MOVEN GRASS

THEN, JUST AS QUIETLY, HE **DROPS** THE ROPE NEAR THE **SLEEPING** WOMAN.

SOON THE **GLOWING** WOMAN WILL BE MINE...AND NO FOOL WARRIOR SHALL **KEEP** HER FROM ME.

WITHOUT A SOUND, DAX **REMOVES** HER BONDS AS SHE STARES DEEPLY INTO HIS **STEEL-GRAY** EYES....

HER EYES OPEN AND SEE THE WARRIOR DAX **STANDING** HIGH ABOVE HER. QUIETLY SHE **GRABS** THE GRASSY ROPE BETWEEN HER BONDED WRISTS, AND DAX **LIFTS** HER TO SAFETY.

DAX **SEES** THIS AND **ATTENDS** HER LOOK WITH A **GENTLE** SMILE. THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THE WOMAN HE **LIKES**. SOMETHING THAT'S **MAKING** HIS INSIDES TO **STIR**...

BUT THERE WILL BE OTHER TIMES TO **PONDER** THESE NEW FEELINGS...FOR NOW THERE MUST ONLY BE **THOUGHTS** OF **ESCAPE**....

AND SO LIKE SILENT SHADOWS THEY **SLIP** INTO THE **WAITING** DARKNESS

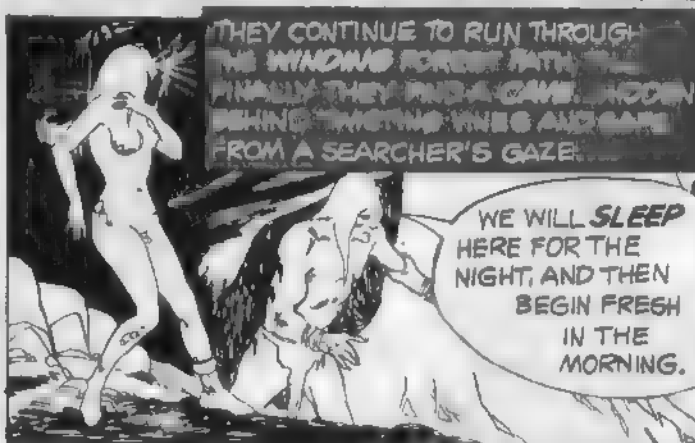
THEY RACE OVER THE SOFT, MOIST PADDED EARTH, DAX STARING AT THE LOVELY GIRL AS THEY RUN. PERHAPS HE HAS BEEN ALONE TOO LONG, BUT WHAT HE FEELS FOR THIS STRANGE GIRL IS DIFFERENT THAN ANYTHING HE HAS EVER FELT BEFORE.



WHO THE GIRL IS, DAX DOESN'T KNOW OR EVEN CARE. ALL HE DOES KNOW IS HE LOVES HER... DEEPLY LOVES HER...



THEY CONTINUE TO RUN THROUGH THE WINDING FOREST PATH. FINALLY THEY FIND A CAVE HIDDEN BEHIND TWISTING VINES AND GAZE FROM A SEARCHER'S GAZE.



WE WILL SLEEP HERE FOR THE NIGHT, AND THEN BEGIN FRESH IN THE MORNING.

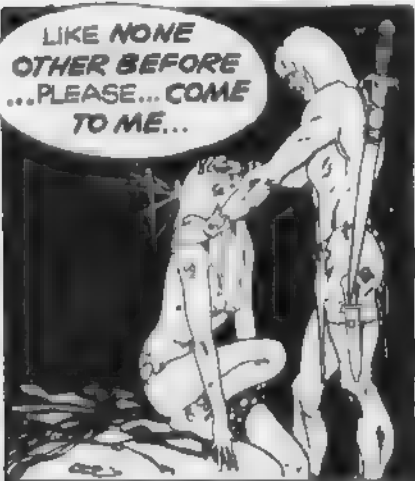


DON'T PULL AWAY.... NO....

PLEASE COME TO ME... I...I NEED YOU...



LIKE NONE OTHER BEFORE... PLEASE... COME TO ME...



AND BE MINE...



...FOREVER...



MOON-FLECKED FANTASIES AND STAR-LIT DREAMS
GLITTER FAST THE YAWNING NIGHT-DARKENED
TUNNEL. INSIDE THE TIME FOR BATTLES AND
WARRIORS IS FORGOTTEN. TOMORROW WILL BE
ANOTHER DAY TO DEAL WITH THE HARSH REALITIES
OF LIFE. FOR TONIGHT, HOWEVER, THERE IS ONLY
TIME FOR THE SOFT WARM THROBBING OF LOVE.

AND SO WHEN DAYLIGHT BREAKS
OVER THE LOW HORIZON OF GEMMA
FIVE, DAX AND THE GLITTERING
ARE READY TO RESUME THEIR
TRAVEL.

I WISH WE
COULD STAY IN THIS CAVE AND
MAKE LOVE TILL THE UNI-
VERSE ITSELF COMES APART
AT THE SEAMS, BUT WE CAN'T...
THERE IS STILL FAR TO JOUR-
NEY BEFORE OUR TRAVELS
ARE DONE.

WHAT--? YOU WISH US TO GO
THAT WAY...VERY WELL, THEN,
THIS IS YOUR WORLD...YOU
MUST KNOW ITS PATH-
WAYS BEST.

AH, I SEE WHAT YOU WISHED...
WATER...AND THE CRYSTAL
CLEARNESS OF A LOVELY SILVER
LAKE...

CORRECT,
BARBARIAN...THE
GIRL MUST BE
RETURNED TO MY
UNDERWATER
VILLAGE...NOW!

NO, BARBARIAN...SHE DOESN'T
WISH THE WATER TO DRINK--
RATHER TO RETURN TO HER
MASTER...TUDD!

SHE DOESN'T
WANT TO BE
RETURNED...AND I
SHALL DO ANYTHING
I CAN TO PREVENT
IT!

TUDD

THE
WARRIOR!!

...ANYTHING...

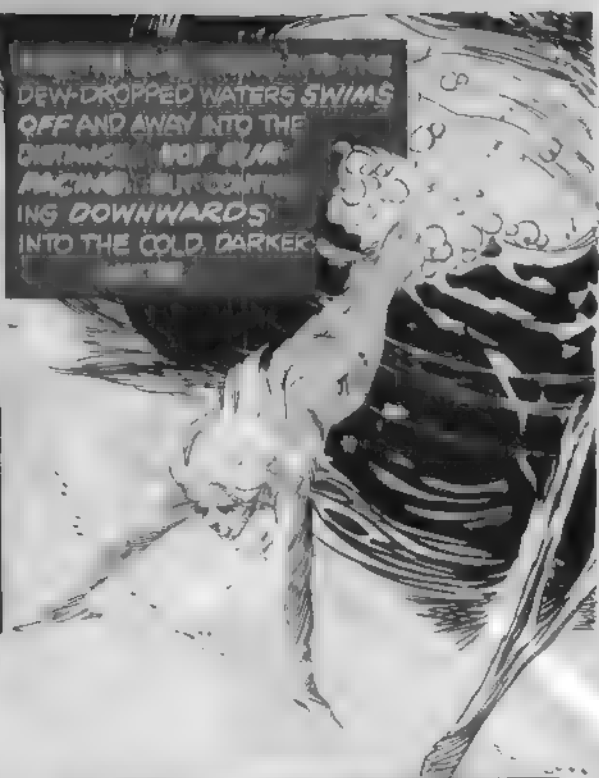
NO! I
CAN NOT
BELIEVE
IT!

GO, WOMAN--GET AWAY FROM
HERE. I CAN'T CONTAIN THEM
MUCH LONGER.



DAX'S SWORD SWINGS MIGHTILY IN THE MORNING BREEZE...
 AND CRIMSON BLOOD FLOWS QUICKLY... AS RUDOLF AND HIS
 BRIDEN WARRIORS FIGHT ONE WHO IS MORE POWERFUL
 THAN THEM ALL...

DEW-DROPPED WATERS SWIMS
 OFF AND AWAY INTO THE
 DISTANCE... NOT SWIMMING
 RACING... BUT CONTINUING
 DOWNWARDS
 INTO THE COLD DARKER...



SHE CONTINUES
 TO SWIM, HER POWERFUL
 LEGS PUSHING
 HER FURTHER AND
 FURTHER TOWARDS
 THE DEPTHS...



SHE WAS AS SAFE AS BEING WITHIN
 HER OWN... SHE SEES IT, COLD, LIFE-
 LESS... A HUGE FRIGHTENING
 MONSTROSITY WHOSE BLINKING
 ORBS STARE AT HER...

SHE BEGINS TO TURN, BUT
 THEN THE METALLIC
 MONSTER SHAKES ALIVE...



ITS EBON JAWS
 SNAP OPEN,
 REVEALING LARGE
 METALLIC TEETH...
 INSIDE CAN BE HEARD
 THE STUDDY HUM
 OF MACHINERY
 OF A CULTURE
 FAR IN ADVANCE OF
 DAX'S OWN...



AND THE GUY WITH THE GLOWING SKIN
 ENTERS THIS FEARSOME QUAKING
 BODY... BUT SHE ENTERS WITH A
 SMILE SPREAD ACROSS HER LIPS...

ABOVE, ON THE BLOOD-STAINED SURFACE, DAX FIGHTS ON HIS ENDLESS BATTLE. HE IS BEGINNING TO **TIRE**, AND THE BARBARIAN HORDES KNOW THIS...



THUS THEY PRESS ON, HOPING TO WEAR OUT, THIS YOUNG VALIANT WARRIOR.

THEN THE **GROUND** BEGINS TO **SHAKE** AS THE LARGE METALLIC MONSTROCTY FROM BENEATH THE SILVER WATERS **BURSTS** UPWARD TOWARDS THE WAITING **VACUUM** OF SPACE...AND DAX WONDERS IF HE MUST BATTLE YET **ANOTHER MONSTER!**



THEN, SUDDENLY, THEIR BODIES BEGIN TO **SHIMMER**, AND THEY LET OUT A **SCREAM** THAT PIERCES EVEN THE **NOISY** BATTLE THEY WAGE...



WHAT MADNESS IS THIS? **WHAT?!**



THEY **GLOW**, THEIR BODIES **TURNING RED**, AND SUDDENLY THEY **BURST** INTO A **QUICK SEARING FLAME** AND **VANISH...**

BUT INSTANTLY HE KNOWS...WHAT LOOKS LIKE A DEATHLY CREATURE, IS BUT A **SHIP**...A SHIP SET TO **SAIL** IN THE **VACUUM** OF SPACE...TOWARDS A PLANET THAT IS PERHAPS ON THE **OTHER SIDE** OF THE **UNIVERSE!**

INSIDE THE SHIP THE GIRL WITH THE **GLITTERING SKIN** STARES SILENTLY AT THE ROWS OF FLASHING LIGHTS AND COMPLICATED CONTROLS...

HER MISSION ON **GEMMA FIVE** WAS DONE... SHE HAD **TESTED** IT'S INHABITANTS AND LEARNED THEY WOULD BE EASY PREY FOR HER OWN CONQUERING RACE...BUT HER REPORT WOULD NOT READ THAT WAY; RATHER IT WOULD TELL OF A **MYTHICAL STRENGTH**, AND A **WARNING** NOT TO INVADE... FOR BEYOND THE FACTS AND FIGURES OF CONQUEST THE GIRL HAD ALSO LEARNED THE MEANING OF...**LOVE...**

AND ON THE PLANET BELOW... DAX AGAIN FEELS **ALONE**... NEVER KNOWING THOUGH HE HAD **LOST** A WOMAN, BUT HAD GAINED THE LIFE OF AN ENTIRE PLANET...



END

EERIE'S DELIGHTS!

STEVE SKEATES



What's it like to be a comic book writer? Well, you don't work in an office; you make your own hours, which generally means you work seven days a week rather than five. You drink a lot of coffee. You stay up till six o'clock in the morning, working out beautifully elaborate plots which editors then tell you to simplify.

The next logical question is, of course, how can one get into this rewarding racket? Well, for me, it all began back in 1937. Just what happened back then I have no idea, since it wasn't until 1943 that I was born. But, according to reliable authorities, for me it all began back in 1937.

Now, moving right along, in 1943 I was born on a plane that was en route from Buffalo, New York to Phoenix, Arizona. An interesting occurrence, considering that my mother had missed the plane in Buffalo. The pilot, unaware that new-born babies can not read, gave me a comic book, which I promptly ate.

Soon after being born (when I was five-and-a-half, to be exact), I knew that I wanted to become either a comic book writer or an F.B.I. agent. But once I reached my teens I realized that I

was too tall to become an F.B.I. agent. In addition, this was the 1950's, when everyone and his mother was running around trying to prove that comics were evil, and my pastor, the good Reverend Warren Savin, convinced me that wanting to be a comic book writer was an unwholesome desire, something akin to wanting to French-kiss on the third date.

All this time, my mother never let me read horror comics, completely unaware that it was a horror comic I had eaten while en route from Buffalo, New York to Phoenix, Arizona.

Upon not graduating from college, but leaving after four years, I got a job as a spy—it was an industrial spy firm which didn't have the same strict height requirements as the F.B.I. But, even so, the job didn't pan out, and I was fired after only one week.

So there I was... Or was I?

Do any of us really know if we were there? Do any of us really know if we were really doing what we think we were doing way back when? The entire past, after all, is little more than an elaborate theory, and life as we know it could have begun last Tuesday, for all we know.

So, there I was, pounding the pavement, looking for work.

Then, finally, in a little news shop on the Lower East Side of New York, I saw a comic book rack, and something that had been building up inside of me since the day I was born, since the day I ate that comic book—finally, after twenty-three long and boring years—finally, it happened.

I threw up.

WHAT'S NEWS!

Observant regular readers of CREEPY, EERIE and VAMPIRELLA will have noticed a few changes in the look of the books this month! First off, the feature that is usually delegated to this page isn't here! (A clever observation!) Our much-talked-about previews, normally on page 74, have a new spot! Beginning with this issue, you'll find previews of all three Warren publications on the back cover of every magazine... in FULL COLOR!

You'll also notice the elimination of our usual book review page, and of the long-running fan pages! In place of these old favorites, we're beginning this new full-features page! Here, we'll be regularly giving you a profile of one of our artists or writers, a fanzine review column, and this news section, wherein we'll reveal some of the deep, dark secrets of the workings of Warren Publishing.

To kick off this new news-feature, we have the biggest announcement for you since dear old Uncle Creepy hit the newsstands with his debut back in 1964! The announcement? DRACULA. It is not a magazine, as are the other Warren publications! DRACULA is a 120-page, full-color soft-bound book of some of the finest work ever produced by comic artists! Just shift your eyes over to the right a bit, for a glimpse of a bit of the breathtaking color that is your in our DRACULA volume! If you think Esteban Maroto's artwork looks good on our colorful back-cover previews, just wait until you see his artistry in DRACULA!

FANZINE REVIEWS

Fanzines, amateur publications written and illustrated by comic book fans, for comic book fans, have been flooding an "underground" market for years. They contain a great diversity of material, including historical articles on comic books of the past, discussions of current comics, and even reprinted strips of professional comics from an earlier era. Some fanzines even publish original amateur comic strips, written and illustrated by young non-professionals, who are surprisingly very talented. These fan magazines are available ONLY by mail, direct from their publishers! In each issue of CREEPY, EERIE and VAMPIRELLA we will be reviewing several of these fanzines, listing where you may obtain copies! We think you'll enjoy reading a few of these fanzines.

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9875 SW 212 Street
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THE CREATIVE
ADVENTURE
83 Irma Avenue
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(\$1.00)

Artist Ken Barr is responsible for a beautiful piece of rendering on the cover of this issue of Comic & Crypt. There is also an interesting interview with demon artist Neal Adams, and a lengthy and somewhat controversial article on the change in Superman comics from the early 60s to the present! Besides the comic book material, of which there is plenty, there is a feature on King Kong, and a discussion of the censored scenes from the movie. A short profile on cover artist Vaughn Bode wraps up a fair issue of a good fanzine!





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PREVIEW OF OUR NEXT ISSUES!

CREEPY

NO. 54

**A SCREAM
IN THE
FOREST**

A band of bearded dwarves slinks through the forest, following the two lovers! Beady little eyes are opened wide, filled with but one desire...to again taste fresh HUMAN meat!

**COVEN'S
CURSE!**

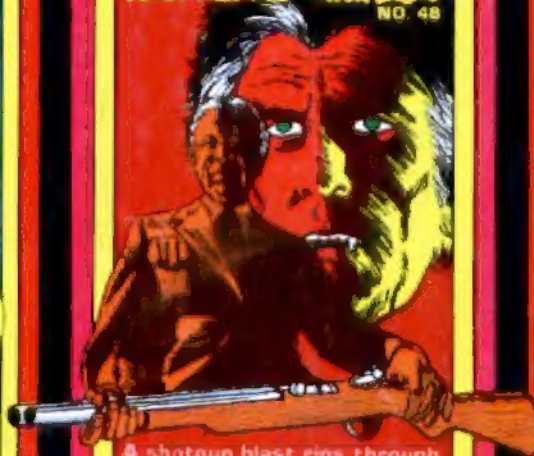


Eric von Gronau trusts no one, despises everyone, and is hated by all! Eric is a WITCH! Eric is immortal... and Eric is MAD!

ON SALE MAY 3

EERIE

NO. 48



A shotgun blast rips through the immortal body of Dracula, and the mutilated corpse of the vampire king falls into an endless pit. What is the deadly secret of the vampire killer who lurks in the dark?

**THE SON OF
DRACULA!**

A full moon rises over the quiet English township of Dwarves Bay, and the once-silent streets come alive with terror-filled screams!



**ON A STALKING
MOONLIT NIGHT**

ON SALE APRIL 3

VAMPIRELLA

NO. 25



Ghosts from the past return to haunt Pendragon in the Bayou country of New Orleans! And Vampirella, captured by gangsters must fight to ward off a more treacherous lust than her craving for human blood...

WHAT PRICE LOVE?



When the earth was yet untamed, I was the greatest of all hunters! The SCENT of DEATH became MY scent, and beasts cowered at my coming! Even the most proficient of all killers fell before my weapon... the mighty

NIMROD!

ON SALE MAY 1